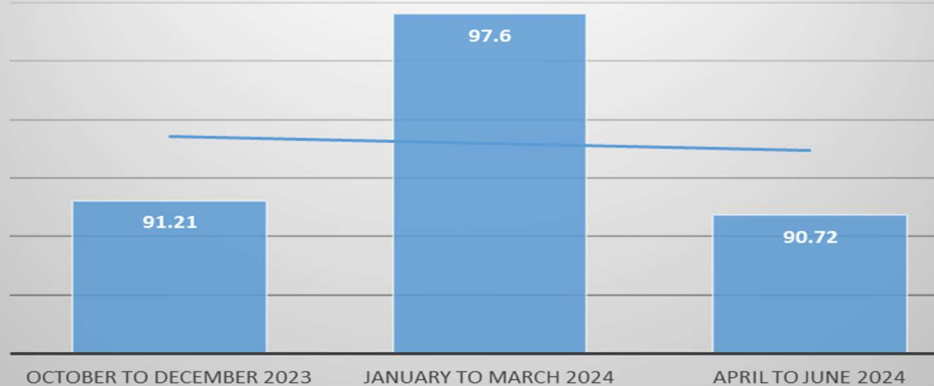


THE SPECIALISED FAMILY COURTS OF JAMAICA

(April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024)

SPECIALISED FAMILY COURTS OF JAMAICA QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT CASE CLEARANCE RATE (%)



The case clearance rate measures a courts ability to manage it's incoming cases effectively and is essential for preventing backlog.

The International benchmark for the rate is an annual average of 90% to 110%

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CHIEF JUSTICE'S MESSAGE FOR SPECIALISED FAMILY COURT

The Family Courts continue to contribute significantly to delivering a high standard of justice in a timely manner. These courts are delivering what is now called therapeutic justice. The efficient disposal of cases in this jurisdiction accompanied by the necessary sensitivity is vital to the effectiveness of the Family Courts. The domestic violence applications are dealt with quickly. Other applications that are vital to the welfare of children such as maintenance and custody declarations are also addressed speedily so that the financial support and stability of the home of the child are settled early.

These conclusions are supported by the following: in the reporting period 2,501 new cases were filed across all the Family Courts and 2,205 were disposed of with a resulting clearance rate of 90.72%.

Despite this, there are indications that should alert one to the need for vigilance. Of the seven courts, only one exceeded the forecast clearance rate (Manchester). Hanover fell behind the forecast target by 21.14%. St James was 21.97% behind the expected standard. Further interrogation of these numbers is required to determine the cause or causes for this significant deviation from expected performance.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD
Chief Justice of Jamaica

Executive Summary

This report provides an analysis of case activity and performance metrics across seven Specialised Family Courts in Jamaica for the second quarter ending June 30, 2024. Key metrics evaluated include case clearance rates, disposal rates, and the courts' overall efficiency in handling various types of cases. The aggregate case clearance rate across all courts was 90.72%, aligning with international benchmarks of 90–110%. The Corporate Area Family Court led with a clearance rate of 103.21%, while Trelawny Family Court posted the lowest at 82.39%.

The key findings of the overall case activity and performance show a total of 2,501 new cases were filed across all courts, with 2,205 disposed cases and 64 inactive cases, resulting in a weighted average case clearance rate of 90.72%, just meeting international standards (90-110%). The Corporate Area Family Court recorded the highest clearance rate of 103.21%, indicating efficient backlog management, followed by the Manchester Family Court at 102.11%.

The Corporate Area Family Court achieved a clearance rate of 95.24% for criminal cases, reflecting strong performance. Courts like Hanover (83.33%) and Trelawny (28.21%) reported lower rates, signalling areas for improvement. Regarding criminal cases, the clearance rates varied significantly, with the Corporate Area Family Court achieving a strong 95.24%, while Trelawny and Westmoreland recorded lower rates at 28.21% and 27.63%, respectively. Key challenges stemmed from high proportions of pending cases in categories such as petty sessions and indictments.

Family matters clearance rates exceeded 100% in many courts, notably Chapelton 110.74% and Manchester 108.76%. Across all courts, maintenance and custody cases dominated the caseload, accounting for over half of new filings.

Weighted clearance rates were highest in Westmoreland 122.58% and Chapelton 110.74%, driven by strong performance in maintenance, custody, and paternity declarations.

Notable efficiency gains were observed in Manchester Family Court's for cases concerning maintenance with a case clearance rate of 116.84%.

Domestic violence filings were significant, with protection orders making up 85% of cases in this category, Corporate Area and Hanover Family Courts recorded clearance rates of over 100%, for domestic violence case activities in the second quarter exceeding the international standards for this metric.

Child Welfare Cases in Chapelton recorded a case clearance rate of 200%, the Trelawny Family Court followed with 150%. The civil case clearance rates exceeded in Hanover, Trelawny, and Westmoreland, also exceeded 100% characteristic of efficiency in handling incoming case volume.

Post disposal activities, including vary orders and disobedience of maintenance cases, were a growing priority, with clearance rates often exceeding 100% indicative of efforts toward backlog reduction. Integrated enforcement and monitoring mechanisms resource allocation and strategic case management are important to efficiency. The variation in court performance underscores the need for targeted interventions, in addressing procedural delays.

A modest improvement in the overall case clearance rate to 94.24% is expected, with significant efficiency gains anticipated in the Corporate Area Family Court (107.83%). Sustained national progress, however, requires continued focus on courts and case activities that report clearance rates below the international standard, particularly in child welfare and criminal matters.

Table i. Aggregate Case Flow Performance Estimates for the Second Quarter Ended June 30, 2024

Family Court	Number of new cases	Gross number of disposed cases	Gross number of inactive cases	Weighted average case clearance rate (%)
Corporate Area Family Court	685	681	26	103.21
Hanover Family Court	194	155	4	81.96
St. James Family Court	681	514	14	77.53
Westmoreland Family Court	394	351	14	92.64
Trelawny Family Court	159	129	2	82.39
Manchester Family Court	190	191	3	102.11
Chapelton Family Court	198	184	1	93.43
Total/Weighted Average	2501	2205	64	90.72

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the featured specialised Family Courts in the first quarter of 2024. It shows that a total of 2501 new cases were filed in these courts, while 64 became inactive and 2205 were disposed, leading to an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 90.72%. The Corporate Area Family Court recorded the highest overall weighted case clearance rate among the featured courts with 103.21%, followed by the Manchester Family Court with 102.11%, Chapelton Family Court with 93.43%, while the Westmoreland Family Court recorded a clearance rate of 92.64% and the Trelawny Family Court following behind with 82.39% to round off the top five specialised family courts in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024.

Table ii. Comparative Analysis of Actual and Forecasted Case Clearance Rates

COURT	Quarter 2 2024 Actual Case Clearance Rate (%)	Quarter 2 2024 Forecasted Case Clearance Rate (%)	Residual	Squared Error	Absolute Percentage Error
Corporate Area Family Court	103.21	105.50	-2.29	5.24	2.22
Hanover Family Court	81.96	103.10	-21.14	446.90	25.79
St. James Family Court	77.53	99.50	-21.97	482.68	28.34
Westmoreland Family Court	92.64	103.35	-10.71	114.70	11.56
Trelawny Family Court	82.39	100.90	-18.51	342.62	22.47
Manchester Family Court	102.11	98.25	3.86	14.90	3.78
Chapelton Family Court	93.43	101.24	-7.81	61.00	8.36
Total/Weighted Average	90.72	100.45	-9.73	94.67	10.73

The table presents a comparison of actual and forecasted case clearance rates for The Specialised Family Courts during the quarter 2 calendar period. The analysis includes the deviation between actual and forecasted rates, the squared error, and the absolute percentage error (APE). The Corporate Area Family Court demonstrated a strong performance, achieving an actual clearance rate of 103.21%, slightly below the forecast of 105.50%. This resulted in a deviation of -2.29, a squared error of 5.24, and a low absolute percentage error of 2.22%.

Conversely, several courts recorded considerably low case clearance rates relative to their forecasts. Hanover Family Court's actual clearance rate of 81.96% fell largely short of the 103.10% forecast, yielding a large deviation of -21.14, a squared error of 446.90, and a high absolute percentage error of 25.79%.

St. James Family Court exhibited the largest discrepancy, with an actual rate of 77.53% compared to a forecast of 99.50%, resulting in a deviation of -21.97, the highest squared error of 482.68, and the highest absolute percentage error of 28.34%.

Westmoreland and Trelawny Family Courts also recorded lower actual case clearance rates than forecasted. Westmoreland's actual rate of 92.64% compared to a forecast of 103.35% (deviation: -10.71, squared error: 114.70, APE: 11.56%), while Trelawny's actual rate of 82.39% compared to a forecast of 100.90% (deviation: -18.51, squared error: 342.62, APE: 22.47%).

In contrast to these shortfalls, Manchester Family Court slightly exceeded its forecast. The actual clearance rate of 102.11% surpassed the 98.25% forecast, resulting in a positive deviation of 3.86, a low squared error of 14.90, and a low absolute percentage error of 3.78%.

Chapelton Family Court's actual rate of 93.43% was below its forecast of 101.24%, with a deviation of -7.81, a squared error of 61.00, and an absolute percentage error of 8.36%.

Overall, the total/weighted average clearance rate was 90.72%, below the forecasted 100.45%, representing a deviation of -9.73. The total squared error was 94.67, and the average absolute percentage error was 10.73%. These findings highlight the variation between forecasted and actual performance across the courts.

Table iii. Forecasted Case Activity Statistics for Third Quarter Ended September 30, 2024.

Parish Court	Forecasted number of new cases	Forecasted number of disposed cases	Forecasted number of inactive cases	Forecasted case clearance rate (%)
Hanover Family Court	173	163	4	96.53
Manchester Family Court	174	160	3	93.68
St. James Family Court	588	480	16	84.35
Corporate Area Family Court	664	688	28	107.83
Westmoreland Family Court	398	350	17	92.21
Chapelton Family Court	196	153	8	82.14
Trelawny Family Court	151	137	2	92.05
Total/Weighted Average	2344	2131	78	94.24

The above table forecasts core activity for the specialised family courts across the island. The forecasts are generated using the method of exponential smoothing which uses weighted averages from past observations with weights declining exponentially as the observations get older. See further explanation of the mathematical science behind the method of exponential smoothing in the glossary of terms.

The data indicates that the overall forecasted case clearance rate for specialized family courts in the third quarter of 2024 (July–September) is projected to reach 94.24%. This represents an increase of 3.52 percentage points compared to the actual case clearance rate of 90.72% recorded in the second quarter (April–June 2024). Additionally, five family courts are expected to meet or exceed the minimum international standard case clearance rate of 90% during the third quarter. This suggests that these courts are making noteworthy progress in effectively managing their caseloads and moving toward equilibrium.

Introduction

The 2024 Specialised Family Court Statistics Report presents a detailed analysis of case activity and performance for the specialized Family Courts across Jamaica for the period April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024. This report aims to provide critical insights into the operational efficiency, case management practices, and systemic challenges faced by the courts, with a focus on enhancing judicial processes and improving access to justice. The statistics reflect core performance metrics, including case clearance rates, case disposal rates, and the management of various case types such as criminal matters, family matters, domestic violence cases, and child welfare cases. These metrics not only reflect the courts' efficiency in managing caseloads but also provide valuable insights into their compliance with international benchmarks for case clearance and backlog prevention.

The analysis encompasses key case categories namely: Criminal Matters including indictments, summary matters, and petty sessions; Family Matters covering maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access, and paternity declarations; Child Welfare Cases focused on child care protection and uncontrollable child matters; Domestic Violence Cases examining protection and occupation orders, Civil Matters, Enforcement and other court-monitored activities.

The primary objective of the report is to evaluate the courts' adherence to international benchmarks, such as maintaining a case clearance rate of 90-110% and ensuring courtroom utilisation rates that reflect effective resource management. By dissecting key performance indicators, the report seeks to highlight key operational metrics, including the volume and type of cases processed by each court, and compare outcomes against international standards. The report also analyses trends in case types, disposal rates, and the courts' ability to manage both active and pending cases.

The aim is to guide strategic improvements by providing data-driven insights to inform policy and resource allocation, ensuring sustained improvements in court efficiency and service delivery.

Methodology

The report covers the performance of the Corporate Area Family Court, Hanover Family Court, St. James Family Court, Westmoreland Family Court, Trelawny Family Court, Manchester Family Court, and Chapelton Family Court. Case data were categorised by type—criminal, family matters, domestic violence, child welfare, civil, and enforcement activities. The performance metrics are calculated using a weighted average approach, a measure of court performance based on caseload variations. In addition, forecasts are generated using exponential smoothing techniques to predict case activity for the successive quarter. The comparative analysis of forecasts with actual measures using squared error and absolute percentage error provides valuable insights into the accuracy and reliability of forecasting methods, facilitating a more comprehensive assessment of the forecasting model's performance.

Disclaimer

The numbers that are reflected in the case activity summary in the annual report may vary slightly from those quoted in the individual quarterly reports throughout the year due to occasional constraints with timely access to all records and other mitigating factors. Methodological adjustments may also result in slight variations in comparative figures across periods.

Chapter 1.0: The Corporate Area Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Corporate Area Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. It includes analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

Table 1.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter Ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	23	12	0	52.17
Indictments	20	23	5	140.00
Summary	13	14	2	123.08
Petty Session	7	3	1	57.14
Total/Weighted Average	63	52	8	95.24

The above table shows the sample of 63 criminal cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Of these, 23 or 36.51% were committal matters, 20 or 31.75% were indictment, 13 or 20.63% were summary matters. There was a total of 52 criminal cases disposed while 8 became inactive during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Of these, 23 indictment matters were disposed while 5 became inactive. There were 14 summary matters disposed while 2 became inactive, there were 12 committal matters disposed and 3 petty session matters. This led to an estimated weighted clearance rate of 95.24% for these types of cases which satisfies the international standards on this vital metric.

Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Corporate Area Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 1.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Second Quarter Ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	24	36	0	150.00
Uncontrollable Child	32	13	1	43.75
Total Weighted Average	56	49	1	89.29

There were 56 child welfare cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, the larger proportion of which were uncontrollable child cases which accounted for 32 or 57.14%, while the remaining proportion were child care protection cases with 24 or 42.86%. A total of 49 child welfare cases were disposed of during the quarter and 1 became inactive. There were 36 child care and protection cases disposed of during the quarter, while 13 uncontrollable child cases were disposed and 1 became inactive. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 150% for child care and protection cases and 43.75% for uncontrollable child cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 89.29%, which is slightly below international standard of 90 and above on this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for The Corporate Area Family Court in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Corporate Area Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are: maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access, and declaration of paternity.

Table 1.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	139	131	4	97.12
Declaration of Paternity	79	60	3	79.75
Maintenance	196	188	10	101.02
Access	3	3	0	100.00
Total	417	382	17	95.68

The 417 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, revealed that maintenance matters account for the largest proportion of cases filed (with 196 cases, or 47%). This was followed by Custody with 139 or 33.33%. There were 79 Declaration of Paternity cases or 18.94%. A total of 399 cases falling under the broad family category were disposed of or became inactive in the quarter. This is broken down into 382 disposed and 17 inactive cases. Maintenance cases accounted for 188 of the disposed cases and 10 inactive cases while custody accounted for 131 disposed cases and 4 inactive cases. There were 60 disposed declarations of paternity cases while 3 became inactive. This led to an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 95.68% for the broad family case type, led by maintenance with 101.02%, and access cases with 100%, while custody cases accounted for 97.12%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024, at the Corporate Area Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Corporate Area for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024.

Table 1.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	129	150	1	117.05
Occupation Order	20	25	0	125.00
Total/Weighted Average	149	175	1	118.12

The data shows that there was a total of 149 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2024 at the Corporate Area Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases which accounted for 129 or 86.58%, while cases of occupation order with 20 or 13.42% accounted for the remaining proportion. A total of 176 Domestic Violence cases were either disposed or inactive in the quarter. There were 150 protection order cases disposed of during the quarter, while 1 became inactive; 25 occupation order cases were also disposed of in the period. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 125% for occupation order cases and 117.05% for protection order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 118.12%, which is above international standards on this vital metric.

Table 1.5: Sampling Distribution/Post Disposal Activity for the Corporate Area Court for the Second Quarter Ended June 30, 2024

Post Disposal Activity/Enforcement	New Entries	Disposed Matters	Inactive Matters	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	101	83	5	87.13
Disobedience of Maintenance	18	58	21	438.89
Total/Weighted Average	119	141	26	140.34

Apart from substantive case activity, it is important to note that Vary Orders accounted for 101 or 84.87% of post-disposal activity in the Corporate Area Family Court, and the remaining 27 or 15.13% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress and arrest warrants) during the quarter. A total of 88 vary orders were disposed of or became inactive in the period and 79 enforcements were either disposed of or became inactive, producing a gross case clearance rate of 140.34% for these matters.

Chapter 2.0: The St. James Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the St. James Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

Table 2.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	3	4	0	133.33
Indictments	9	8	0	88.89
Summary	14	3	0	21.43
Petty Session	5	0	0	0.00
Total/Weighted Average	31	15	0	48.39

The above table shows the sample of 31 criminal cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Of these, 14 or 45.16% were summary matters. Indictment matters accounted for 9 or 29.03%, while petty session matters accounted for 5 or 16.12%. The remaining 3 or 9.67% was accounted for by committal cases. There was a total of 15 criminal cases disposed of during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Of these, 8 indictment cases were disposed, both committal and summary matters accounted for 4 and 3 disposed cases, respectively. This led to an estimated weighted clearance rate of 48.39% for these types of cases.

Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the St. James Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 2.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	58	33	1	58.62
Uncontrollable Child	27	18	2	74.07
Total Weighted Average	85	51	3	63.53

There were 85 child welfare cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, the larger proportion of which were childcare and protection cases which accounted for 58 or 68.24%, while cases of uncontrollable child with 27 or 31.76% accounted for the remaining proportion. A total of 51 child welfare cases were disposed while 3 became inactive during the quarter. There were 33 child care and protection cases, and 18 uncontrollable child cases disposed of during the quarter in the St. James Family Court. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 58.62% for child care and protection cases and 74.07% for uncontrollable child cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 63.53%, which does not satisfy international standards on this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the St. James Family Court in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the St. James Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access, and declaration of paternity.

Table 2.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	89	119	4	138.20
Declaration of Paternity	54	34	0	62.96
Declaration of Maternity	7	0	0	0.00
Access	19	0	0	0.00
Legal Guardianship	7	2	0	28.57
Maintenance	157	121	4	79.62
Adoption	3	3	0	100.00
Total	336	279	8	85.42

The 336 new cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, revealed that maintenance matters with 157 cases or 46.73% accounts for the largest proportion of cases filed. This was followed by Custody with 89 or 26.49%. There were 54 Declaration of Paternity cases or 16.07%, there were 19 access cases and 7 declaration of maternity and legal guardianship cases.

A total of 287 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of (279) or became inactive (8) in the quarter. Maintenance cases accounted for 121 of the disposed cases and 4 inactive cases while custody cases accounted for 119 disposed cases and 4 inactive cases. There were 34 disposed cases concerning declaration of paternity and 2 legal guardianship cases.

This led to an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 85.42% for the broad family case type. The highest case clearance rate of family case activities in the St. James Family court was for custody cases with 138.20%; followed by adoption cases with 100%, maintenance cases with 79.62%; declaration of paternity with 62.96% and legal guardianship with 28.57%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024, at the St. James Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in St. James for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024.

Table 2.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	164	124	1	76.22
Occupation Order	35	25	1	74.29
Total/Weighted Average	199	149	2	75.88

The data above shows that there was a total of 199 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2024 at the St. James Family Court. Protection order cases accounted for the larger proportion with 164 or 82.41%, while occupation order cases accounted for the remaining proportion with 35 or 17.59%. A total of 149 domestic cases were disposed while 2 became inactive during the quarter. There were 124 protection cases disposed of during the quarter, while 25 occupation order cases were disposed. During the quarter, 1 protection order case and 1 occupation order case became inactive. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 76.22% for protection order cases and 74.29% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 75.88%, which does not satisfy international standards on this vital metric.

Summary of Case Activity for Civil Matters at the St. James Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the St. James Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024.

Table 2.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Number of New Cases Filed	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Inactive Cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
30	20	1	70.00

The data above shows that there was a total of 30 new civil cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. There was also a total of 20 civil cases which were disposed of in the quarter at the St. James Family Court, while 1 became inactive. This produced an estimated case clearance rate of 70%, which is below the international standard on this metrics.

Table 2.6: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the St. James Family Court for the Second Quarter Ended June 30, 2024

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Estimated clearance rate (%)
Vary Orders	59	45	0	76.27
Disobedience of Maintenance	16	20	3	143.75
Warrants of Distress	29	0	0	0.00
Warrants of Arrest	22	0	0	0.00
Judgement Summons	0	1	0	undefined
Total/Weighted Average	126	66	3	54.76

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 50 or 39.68% of post disposal activity in the St. James Family Court, while 67 or 53.17% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress, arrest warrants and judgement summons) during the quarter. There were 45 vary orders disposed of in the period, and 21 enforcements were disposed or made inactive, producing an estimated case clearance rate of 54.76% on these matters.

Chapter 3.0: The Hanover Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Hanover Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

Table 3.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	1	1	0	100.00
Indictments	6	5	0	83.33
Summary	5	4	0	80.00
Total	12	10	0	83.33

The above table shows the sample of 12 criminal cases filed at the Hanover Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Indictment matters accounted for the largest share with 6 or 50% of the total followed by summary matters with 5 cases or 41.66%. There were 10 criminal cases disposed of in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, resulting in a clearance rate of 83.33% which is below the international standard on this metric.

Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Hanover Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 3.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	34	11	0	32.35
Uncontrollable Child	6	2	0	33.33
Total Weighted Average	40	13	0	32.50

There were 40 child welfare cases filed at the Hanover Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, the larger proportion of which were child care protection cases which accounted for 34 or 85%, while the remaining proportion were cases of uncontrollable child with 6 or 15%. For the period April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024. There were 13 child welfare case disposed of producing an estimated case clearance rate of 32.50%: considerably below international standards on this vital metric, but a vast improvement from the 6.25% recording in the previous quarter (Jan.-Mar. 2024).

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Hanover Family Court in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the St. James Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are, maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access, and declaration of paternity.

Table 3.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	30	32	0	106.67
Declaration of Paternity	9	2	0	22.22
Access	4	2	0	50.00
Maintenance	32	26	1	84.38
Total	75	62	1	84.00

The 75 new Family cases filed at the Hanover Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, disaggregated by case subtype showed maintenance matters accounted for the largest proportion with 32 cases or 42.67%. This was followed by custody cases with 30 or 40% and declaration of paternity with 9 or 12%. There were also 4 new case filed in the quarter concerning cases of access. A total of 63 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of or became inactive in the quarter. For matters that were disposed during the period, 32 were disposed custody cases, 26 disposed maintenance cases and 2 disposed cases each of access and declaration of paternity. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 84% for the broad family case type; The highest rate recorded was for custody cases with 106.67%, followed by maintenance with 84.38% and access cases with 50%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024, at the Hanover Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Hanover for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024.

Table 3.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter Ended June 30, 2024

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	44	48	2	113.64
Occupation and protection	16	13	1	87.50
Total/Weighted Average	60	61	3	106.67

The data above shows that there was a total of 60 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2024 at the Hanover Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases which accounted for 44 or 73.33%, the remaining proportion of new cases filed were occupation orders with 16 or 26.67%. During the second quarter of the 2024 calendar year the Hanover Family court disposed a total 61 Domestic Violence cases, and 3 inactive cases, 48 were protection orders and the remaining 13 cases disposed were of occupation and protection orders. These outcomes produced case clearance rates of 113.64% for protection order cases and 87.50% for occupation and protection order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 106.67%, which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

Summary of Case Activity for Civil Matters at the Hanover Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the Hanover Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024.

Table 3.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Number of New Cases Filed	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Inactive Cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
7	9	0	128.57

The data above shows that there was a total of 7 new civil cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. There was also a total of 9 civil cases which were disposed of in the quarter at the Hanover Family Court. This produced an estimated case clearance rate of 128.57%, which satisfies international standards for this metric.

Table 3.6: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the Hanover Family Court for the Second Quarter Ended June 30, 2024

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Estimated clearance rate (%)
Vary Orders	23	13	1	60.87
Disobedience of Maintenance	11	4	2	54.55
Total/Weighted Average	34	17	3	58.82

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 23 or 67.65% of post disposal activity in the St. James family court while 11 or 32.35% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress, arrest warrants and judgement summons) during the quarter.

There were 13 vary orders disposed of in the period, and 4 enforcements were disposed while 2 made inactive, producing an estimated case clearance rate of 58.82% on these matters.

Chapter 4.0: The Westmoreland Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Westmoreland Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

Table 4.1: Summary of criminal case activity for cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	9	1	0	11.11
Indictments	18	9	0	50.00
Summary	16	9	2	68.75
Petty Session	33	0	0	0.00
Total/Weighted Average	76	19	2	27.63

The above table shows the sample of 76 criminal cases filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Of these, 33 or 43.42% were petty session matters, 18 or 23.68% were indictment matters, while summary matters accounted for 16 cases or 21.05%. Committal proceedings accounted for the remaining 9 matters or 11.84%. There was a total of 21 criminal cases disposed of or became inactive during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Of the total cases disposed indictment and summary matters accounted for 9 cases each, while committal proceedings accounted for only 1 case. There were two inactive summary matters. This produced an estimated weighted clearance rate of 27.63% for the cases in the Westmoreland family court classified as criminal.

Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Westmoreland Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 4.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of New Cases Filed	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Inactive Cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	33	43	0	130.30
Uncontrollable Child	31	23	2	80.65
Total/Weighted Average	64	66	2	106.25

There were 64 child welfare cases filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, Child care protection cases accounted for the greater share with 33 or 51.56% and the remainder were uncontrollable child cases 31 or 48.44%. A total of 68 child welfare cases were disposed or became inactive during the quarter. Cases concerning childcare and protection accounted for 43 of cases disposed the remaining 23 disposed cases were matters related to uncontrollable child care. The 2 inactive cases recorded in the period were classified as uncontrollable child. This result produced a weighted average case clearance rate of 106.25%, which satisfies international standards of this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Westmoreland Family Court in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Westmoreland Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are, maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access, and declaration of paternity.

Table 4.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	50	71	4	150.00
Declaration of Paternity	13	23	0	176.92
Access	10	4	0	40.00
Legal Guardianship	3	5	0	166.67
Maintenance	79	79	4	105.06
Total/Weighted Average	155	182	8	122.58

The 155 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 79 cases or 50.97%. This was followed by custody cases, accounting for 50 or 32.26% and cases concerning declaration of paternity, 13 or 8.39%. There were also 10 or 6.45% access cases and 3 or 1.93% cases regarding legal guardianship. A total of 190 cases falling under the broad family category were disposed or became inactive in the quarter. That is, 79 disposed and 4 inactive maintenance cases, 71 disposed and 4 inactive custody cases, 23 disposed declarations of paternity cases, 5 disposed legal guardianship cases and 4 disposed access cases. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 122.58% for the broad family case type. Cases classified as declaration of paternity, recorded the highest case clearance rate of 176.92%, legal guardianship cases followed with 166.67%, custody cases with 150% and cases concerning maintenance recorded a clearance rate of 105.06%. Cases concerning access had a clearance rate of 40%, the only one to record a case clearance rate of below 100%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024, at the Westmoreland Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Westmoreland for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024.

Table 4.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	75	57	2	78.67
Occupation Order	12	8	0	66.67
Total/Weighted Average	87	65	2	77.01

The data above shows that there was a total of 87 new domestic violence cases filed in the first quarter of 2024 at the Westmoreland Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases, accounted for 75 or 86.21%, while the remaining proportion were cases regarding occupation orders with 12 or 13.79%. A total of 67 domestic violence cases were disposed of or inactive during the quarter. There were 57 protection cases disposed of during the quarter, while the remaining 8 disposed cases were occupation orders. These outcomes produced estimated case clearance rates of 78.67% for protection order cases and 66.67% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 77.01%, which is below international standards on this vital metric.

Summary of Case Activity for Civil Matters at the Westmoreland Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the Westmoreland Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024.

Table 4.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Number of New Cases Filed	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Inactive Cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
12	19	0	158.33

The data above shows that there was a total of 12 new civil cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. There was also a total of 19 civil cases which were disposed in the quarter at the Westmoreland Family Court. This produced an estimated case clearance rate of 158.33%, which is above international standards on the metrics.

Table 4.6: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the Westmoreland Family Court for the Second Quarter Ended June 30, 2024

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Clearance rate (%)
Vary Orders	42	32	2	80.95
Disobedience of Maintenance	2	22	2	1200.00
Total/Weighted Average	44	54	4	131.82

Apart from substantive case activity, it is important to note that vary orders accounted for 42 4.55% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress, and arrest warrants) during the quarter. In the report period 34 vary orders were disposed or became inactive and 24 enforcements were disposed or became inactive, this resulted in a case clearance rate of 131.82% on these matters.

Chapter 5.0: The Trelawny Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Trelawny Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

Table 5.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	5	3	0	60.00
Indictments	22	5	0	22.73
Summary	4	3	0	75.00
Petty Session	8	0	0	0.00
Total/Weighted Average	39	11	0	28.21

The above table shows the sample of 39 criminal cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Of these, 22 or 56.41% were summary matters, 8 or 20.51% were petty session matters. Committal matters accounted for 5 cases or 12.82% of new cases filed. There was a total of 11 disposed cases during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, this produced an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 28.21% for criminal case activities in the Trelawny Family Court.

Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Trelawny Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 5.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	16	27	0	168.75
Uncontrollable Child	2	0	0	0.00
Total/ Weighted Average	18	27	0	150.00

There were 18 new child welfare cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, the larger proportion of which were child care protection cases which accounted for 16 or 88.88%, while the remaining proportion was 2 uncontrollable child matter. A total of 27 child welfare cases were disposed of during the quarter; all 27 cases disposed were child care protection. These results produced estimated case clearance rates of 168.75% for child care protection cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 150%, which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Trelawny Family Court in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Trelawny Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access, and declaration of paternity.

Table 5.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	18	16	0	88.89
Declaration of Paternity	10	11	0	110.00
Access	7	7	0	100.00
Legal Guardianship	3	2	0	66.67
Maintenance	35	30	0	85.71
Total	73	66	0	90.41

The 73 new cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 35 cases or 47.95% and custody matters with 18 cases or 24.66%. Declaration of paternity matters followed accounting for 10 or 13.70% of new family cases filed. A total of 66 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of during the quarter. Of the total disposed cases 30 were concerning maintenance, 16 custody cases, 11 declaration of paternity cases, 7 cases of access and 2 cases of legal guardianship. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 90.41% for the broad family case type. Declaration of paternity cases had the highest case clearance rate of 110%, followed by matters classified as access with 100%, custody with 88.89%, maintenance with 85.71% and legal guardianship with 66.67%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024, at the Trelawny Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Trelawny for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024.

Table 5.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	28	23	2	89.29
Total/Weighted Average	28	23	2	89.29

The data above shows that there was a total of 28 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2024 at the Trelawny Family Court. A total 23 Domestic Violence cases were disposed of during the quarter. All new cases filed were protection orders which accounted for 100%. These results produced estimated case clearance rates of 89.29% for the quarter; this result is below the international standards on this vital metric.

Summary of Case Activity for Civil Matters at the Trelawny Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the Trelawny Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024.

Table 5.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Number of New Cases Filed	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Inactive Cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
1	2	0	200

The data above shows that there was a total of 1 new civil case filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. There was also a total of 2 civil cases which were disposed of in the quarter. This produced an estimated case clearance rate of 200%, which satisfies international standards on this metrics.

Table 5.6: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the Trelawny Court for the Second Quarter Ended June 30, 2024

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Inactive matters	Disposed matters	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	20	1	21	110.00
Disobedience of Maintenance	18	6	11	94.44
Warrants of Distress	16	0	0	0.00
Warrants of Arrest	16	15	19	212.50
Total/Weighted Average	70	22	51	104.29

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 20 or 28.57% of post disposal activities in the Trelawny Family Court and the remaining 50 or 71.43% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress, and arrest warrants) during the quarter. There were 21 vary orders disposed, while 30 enforcements were disposed or became inactive in the period, producing a gross case clearance rate of 104.29% on these matters.

Chapter 6.0: The Manchester Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Manchester Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

Table 6.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of New Cases Filed	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Inactive Cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Summary	16	14	0	93.75
Committal	6	1	0	16.67
Total/Weighted Average	22	15	1	72.73

The above table shows the sample of 22 criminal cases filed at the Manchester Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Summary matters accounted for 16 cases files or 72.73%, while committal cases accounted for the remaining 6 new cases filed or 27.27%. There was a total of 16 criminal cases disposed of or became inactive during second quarter ended June 30, 2024, summary matters accounted for 14 disposed matters while committal cases accounted for 1 case. This produced an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 72.73% for matters classified as criminal in the Manchester Family Court.

Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Manchester Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 6.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of New Cases Filed	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Inactive Cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	4	0	0	0.00
Uncontrollable Child	6	6	2	133.33
Total/Weighted Average	10	6	2	80.00

There were 10 new child welfare cases filed at the Manchester Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, the larger proportion of which were uncontrollable child cases, accounted for 6 or 60%, while cases classified as child care protection accounted for the remaining proportion, 4 or 40%. A total of 8 child welfare cases were disposed of or became inactive during the quarter. There were 6 uncontrollable child cases disposed of during the quarter, while 2 matters became inactive. These results produced estimated case clearance rates of 133.33% for uncontrollable child cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 80%, which does not satisfy international standards on this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Manchester Family Court in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Manchester Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are, maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access, and declaration of paternity.

Table 6.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Overall Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases within the period	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	17	20	0	117.65
Declaration of Paternity	2	4	0	200.00
Access	22	13	0	59.09
Maintenance	95	111	0	116.84
Adoption	1	1	0	100.00
Total	137	149	0	108.76

The 137 new cases filed at the Manchester Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, showed that maintenance matters accounted for the largest proportion of cases filed with 95 cases or 69.34%; access matters followed with 22 or 16.06% of new cases filed. There were also 17 matters of custody, 2 matters of declaration of paternity and 1 adoption cases filed in the report period. A total of 149 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of in the quarter. Maintenance cases accounted for 111 of the disposed cases while custody cases accounted for 20 disposed cases. There were, 13 disposed cases related to access and 4 disposed declaration of paternity cases. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 108.76% for the broad family case type. Declaration of paternity recorded the highest clearance rate of 200% despite its low absolute numbers. Custody cases followed with 117.65%. Maintenance matters with 116.84% was next, adoption with 100%, and access with 59.09%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024, at the Manchester Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Manchester for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024.

Table 6.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	20	20	0	100.00
Occupation Order	1	1	0	100.00
Total/Weighted Average	21	21	0	100.00

The data above shows that there was a total of 21 new domestic violence cases filed in the first quarter of 2024 at the Manchester Family Court. Protection order accounted for 20 or 95.23%, while the remaining 1 or 4.76% was accounted for by occupation order. A total 21 Domestic Violence cases were disposed of during the quarter of which protection order cases accounted for 20 while occupation order recorded 1 disposed case. These outputs produced an overall clearance rate of 100% which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

Table 6.5: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the Manchester Court for the Second Quarter Ended June 30, 2024

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Inactive matters	Disposed matters	Case clearance weight (%)
Vary Orders	36	23	0	63.89
Disobedience of Maintenance	41	25	0	60.98
Warrants of Distress	13	0	0	0.00
Warrants of Arrest	12	19	0	158.33
Total/Weighted Average	102	67	0	65.69

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 36 or 35.29% of post disposal activities in the Manchester family court and the remaining 66 or 64.71% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress and arrest warrants) during the quarter in the Manchester Family Court. In the report period 23 vary orders were disposed and 44 enforcement matters were disposed or became inactive, this produced a case clearance rate of 65.69% for these matters.

Chapter 7.0: The Chapelton Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Chapelton Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. It includes analyses of caseloads, case type distribution, and case clearance rates across the various business lines of the family court.

Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

Table 7.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Indictments	20	15	0	75.00
Summary	18	1	0	5.56
Total	38	16	0	42.11

The above table shows the sample of 38 criminal cases filed at the Chapelton Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Of these, 20 or 52.63% were indictment matters and 18 or 47.37% were summary matters. There was a total of 16 matters disposed during the quarter with indictments matters accounting for 15 or 93.75%, while the remaining 6.25% was accounted for by summary matters. This produced an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 42.11% for criminal cases in the Chapelton Family Court.

Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Chapelton Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 7.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	4	11	0	275.00
Uncontrollable Child	5	7	0	140.00
Total Weighted Average	9	18	0	200.00

There were 9 child welfare cases filed at the Chapelton Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Of these 5 or 55.55% were cases of uncontrollable child cases and the remaining 4 or 44.44% were child care protection cases. A total of 18 child welfare cases were disposed of in the quarter, with child care protection cases accounting for 11 or 61.11% of the total. The remaining 7 or 38.88% was accounted for by uncontrollable child cases. This yielded a weighted average case clearance rate of 200%, which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Chapelton Family Court in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Chapelton Family Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are, maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access, and declaration of paternity.

Table 7.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	21	27	0	128.57
Declaration of Paternity	4	9	0	225.00
Access	11	14	0	127.27
Maintenance	81	81	0	100.00
Legal Guardianship	1	1	0	100.00
Adoption	3	2	0	66.67
Total	121	134	0	110.74

The 121 new cases filed at the Chapelton Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, showed that the largest proportion of cases filed were maintenance matters with 81 cases or 66.94%. This was followed by custody cases with 21 or 17.36% and access which accounted for 11 cases filed or 9.09%. Additionally, there were 4 declaration of paternity cases, 3 adoption case and 1 legal guardianship case filed in the quarter. A total of 134 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of during the report period. Of the total cases disposed 81 were maintenance cases, 27 custody cases 14 access cases, 9 declaration of paternity cases and 2 adoption cases and 1 legal guardianship case. During the report period no case became inactive. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 110.74% for the broad family case type. Declaration of paternity cases recorded the highest case clearance rates of 225%, followed by custody and access cases recording a case clearance rate of 128.57% and 127.27%, respectively. Matters concerning maintenance had a case clearance rate of 100% and legal guardianship cases also with 100% for the second quarter of the 2024 calendar year.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024, at the Chapelton Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Clarendon for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024.

Table 7.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the Second Quarter Ended June 30, 2024

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	24	13	1	58.33
Occupation Order	2	1	0	50.00
Total/Weighted Average	26	14	1	57.69

Table 7.4 shows that there was a total of 26 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2024 at the Chapelton Family Court. Protection orders accounted for 24 or 92.31% of the cases while occupation order accounted for the remaining 2 or 7.69%. A total of 15 domestic cases were disposed of or became inactive during the quarter; 13 of the matters disposed were protection orders, the remaining 1 matter disposed of were occupation orders. This output produced a weighted average case clearance rate of 57.69%, which does not satisfy international standards on this vital metric.

Table 7.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2024

Number of New Cases Filed	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Inactive Cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
4	2	0	50

The data above shows that there was a total of 4 new civil cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. A total of 2 civil cases which were disposed of in the quarter, this produced an estimated case clearance rate of 50%, which does not satisfy international standards on this metric.

Table 7.6: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the Chapelton Court for the Second Quarter Ended June 30, 2024

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Inactive matters	Disposed matters	Clearance rate (%)
Vary Orders	14	15	0	107.14
Disobedience of Maintenance	29	25	4	100.00
Total/Weighted Average	43	40	4	102.33

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity vary orders accounted for 14 or 32.56% of post disposal activities in the Chapelton family court and the remaining 29 or 67.44% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters) and vary orders during the quarter. In the quarter 40 vary orders became inactive, 4 enforcements also became inactive, which produced a case clearance rate of 102.33%.

Conclusion

The 2024 Specialized Family Court Statistics Report for the second quarter highlights the significant progress made by Jamaica's Specialized Family Courts in addressing the needs of families and children, while also identifying areas that require continued focus and improvement. With a total of 2,501 new cases filed and an overall weighted clearance rate of 90.72%, the courts are approaching international benchmarks, reflecting steady progress in case management and operational efficiency.

The Corporate Area Family Court recorded the highest clearance rate at 103.21%, followed by Manchester Family Court at 102.11%. These results demonstrate the courts capacity to manage their caseloads effectively and even reduce backlogs. Courts such as Westmoreland 92.64% and Chapelton 93.43% also exceeded the minimum international standard of 90%, a demonstration of their facility to deliver timely justice. St. James Family Court 77.53% and Hanover Family Court 81.96% fell below the minimum international standard for case clearance rate, particularly in case activities concerning child welfare and domestic violence cases.

Disparities in performance by case type indicate a need for specialized interventions, including improved resources and training in managing criminal and child welfare cases. Domestic violence filings remain a pressing concern, with protection orders accounting for a sizeable proportion of new cases. While some courts, like Corporate Area and Hanover, excelled with clearance rates exceeding 100%, others, including Chapelton 57.69%, struggled to meet standards.

Child welfare cases show variability in outcomes, with some courts achieving clearance rates well above 100% e.g., Chapelton at 200% and others falling short e.g., Hanover at 32.50%. Family matters, including maintenance and custody, were well-managed, with clearance rates exceeding international benchmarks in many courts.

Courts with persistently low clearance rates, such as St. James and Hanover, require targeted investments in personnel, training, and courtroom resources. Emphasising enforcement mechanisms, especially in maintenance and domestic violence cases, can improve compliance and case resolution rates. Enhanced case tracking and digital file management systems are critical to reducing procedural delays and ensuring timely access to case files. With regards to training and public engagement, continuous professional development for court staff is essential, particularly in handling complex case types like child welfare and domestic violence. Public education campaigns about the availability and importance of family court services can encourage timely filings and resolution of disputes. There should also be regular performance audits and adherence to international standards, to ensure that courts remain accountable and focused on reducing backlogs.

Forecasts predict an improvement in overall performance, with a weighted average clearance rate of 94.24%, reflecting anticipated gains in efficiency. However, achieving long-term success will depend on addressing systemic challenges and maintaining gains in efficiencies in areas of high-performance.

The report provides valuable insights into the current state of Jamaica's Specialised Family Courts. Noting both strengths and areas for growth, the report serves to support improving strategies and effective targeted resource allocation. With sustained focus and collaborative efforts, Jamaica's Specialised Family Courts are on the path to achieve greater efficiencies in timely and equitable justice for all.

Glossary of Terms

Sampling Distribution: A sampling distribution of a given population is the distribution of frequencies of a range of outcomes that could possibly occur for a statistic of a population. A population is the entire pool from which a statistical sample is drawn.

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.

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.

Outlier: An outlier is a value that is too small or too large, relative to the majority of scores/trend in a data set.

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.

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% annualised. This is a critical foundation to backlog prevention in the court system.ⁱ

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

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.

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%. The international standard for this measure is between 92% and 100%.

Case File Integrity Rate: Measures the proportion of time that a case file is fully ready and available in a timely manner for a matter to proceed. Hence, any adjournment, which is due to the lack of readiness of a case file or related proceedings for court at the scheduled time,

impairs the case file integrity rate. The international benchmark for the case file integrity is 100%.

Courtroom utilisation rate: The proportion of courtrooms in full use on a daily basis or the proportion of hours utilised in a courtroom on a daily basis. The international standard for this rate is 100%.

Case backlog: A case that is in the court system for more than two years without disposition.

The **gross backlog rate** measures the proportion of all cases filed within a given period which remain unresolved for a period of over two years.

The **net backlog rate** on the other hand measures the proportion of active cases filed in a given period which are unresolved for over two years.

Continuance and Adjournment: In a general sense, any delay in the progression of a hearing in which a future date/time is set or anticipated for continuation is a form of adjournment. However, in order to make a strict distinction between matters which are adjourned for procedural factors and those which are generally avoidable, court statistics utilises the terms 'continuance' and 'adjournment.' Here, 'continuance' is used strictly to describe situations in which future dates are set due to procedural reasons and 'adjournments' is used to describe the circumstances in which future dates of appearance are set due to generally avoidable reasons. For example, adjournments for another stage of hearing, say from a plea and case management hearing to a trial hearing or from the last date of trial to a sentencing date are classified as 'continuance' but delays for say, missing or incomplete files, due to outstanding medical reports or attorney absenteeism are classified as 'adjournments'. Adjournments as defined in this document have an adverse effect on hearing date certainty rates, but continuances do not.

Percentile Rank: This refers to the percentage of scores that are equal to or less than a given score. Percentile ranks, like percentages, fall on a continuum from 0 to 100. For example, a percentile rank of 45 indicates that 45% of the scores in a distribution of scores fall at or below the score at the 45th percentile. Percentile ranks are useful when you want to quickly understand how a particular score compares to the other scores in a distribution of scores. For instance, knowing a court disposed 300 cases in a given period doesn't tell you much. You don't know how many case disposals were possible, and even if you did, you wouldn't know how that court's score compared to the rest of the courts. If, however, you were told that the court scored at the 80th percentile, then you would know that this court did as well or better than 80% of the courts in case disposals.

Difference between percentage and percentile changes: The difference between percentage and percentage points, the latter is strictly used to compare two percentages, for example, if the clearance rate in 2018 was 89% and the clearance rate in 2019 is 100%, then the appropriate expression to compare these would be "an 11 percentage points increase". However, if we are comparing two absolute numbers, say, 1000 cases were disposed in 2018, and 1500 in 2019, then there would be a 50% increase in cases disposed.

Weighted Average: Weighted average is a calculation that takes into account the varying degrees of significance of the groups or numbers in a data set. In calculating a weighted average for a particular variable, the individual scores or averages for each group are multiplied by the weight or number of observations in each of those groups and summed. The outcome is then divided by the summation of the number of observations in all groups combined. For example, if we wish to calculate the weighted average clearance rate for the parish courts, the product of the clearance rate and number of cases for each court are computed, added, and then divided by the total number of cases across all the parish courts. This means that a court with a larger caseload has a greater impact on the case clearance

rate than a smaller court. A weighted average can be more accurate than a simple average in which all numbers in a data set are assigned an identical weight.

Exponential Smoothing: Exponential smoothing of time series data assigns exponentially decreasing weights for newest to oldest observations. In other words, the older data, the less priority ("weight") the data is given; newer data is seen as more relevant and is assigned more weight. Smoothing parameters (smoothing constants) – usually denoted by α – determine the weights of the observations.

Exponential smoothing is usually used to make short term forecasts, as longer-term forecasts using this technique can be quite unreliable.

- **Simple (single) exponential smoothing** uses a weighted moving average with exponentially decreasing weights.
- **Holt's trend-corrected double exponential smoothing** is usually more reliable for handling data that shows trends, compared to the single procedure.
- **Triple exponential smoothing** (also called the Multiplicative Holt-Winters) is usually more reliable for parabolic trends or data that shows trends and seasonality.

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>

Appendix

Table A1.1:
Forecast of Case Clearance Rates 2023/24 – 2032/33 – Specialised Family Courts (%)

Family Court	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Corporate Area	110.91	109.90	109.98	107.71	107.89
St. James	108.09	107.81	106.67	105.67	106.78
Hanover	103.40	103.56	103.98	104.01	102.89
Westmoreland	107.82	105.45	106.01	104.67	105.34
Trelawny	104.56	104.48	105.59	104.67	105.67
Manchester	101.01	102.03	103.54	102.81	101.67
Chapelton	102.34	102.56	104.45	105.56	105.67

Family Court	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33
Corporate Area	106.61	106.78	105.51	105.67	106.03
St. James	107.56	106.76	106.78	105.88	104.67
Hanover	103.89	105.91	103.71	103.51	101.01
Westmoreland	103.71	104.04	105.05	103.04	103.76
Trelawny	106.67	107.71	105.71	105.87	105.98
Manchester	103.91	103.56	102.54	102.34	101.56
Chapelton	105.67	104.78	103.31	104.56	100.99

Table A2.1:
Mean Case Clearance Rate required to maintain a net backlog rate of under 5%
2023/24 – 2032/33 – Specialised Family Courts

Family Court	Required Average Rate (%) (2023/24 - 2032/33)	Expected Average Rate (%) (2023/24 - 2032/33)	Variance
Corporate Area	110.04	107.699	2.341
St. James	109.43	106.667	2.763
Hanover	103.05	103.587	-0.537
Westmoreland	106.54	104.889	1.651
Trelawny	107.23	105.691	1.539
Manchester	103.01	102.497	0.513
Chapelton	105.42	103.989	1.431

Note: A positive variance implies that the required average case clearance rate exceeds the expected case clearance rate over the next 10 fiscal years. On the contrary, a negative variance implies that the expected average case clearance rate exceeds the required average case clearance rate.