

Parish Courts of Jamaica
The Chief Justice's Annual Statistics
Report for First Quarter of 2021
(Civil Matters)

JANUARY TO MARCH HIGHLIGHTS		
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	116.93	107.63
Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)	86.83	85.38
Average time to disposition	10.40 months	10.87 months

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chief Justice’s Message..... 2

Executive Summary 5

Methodology 8

Introduction.....9

Corporate Area Court – Civil Division..... 11

Hanover Parish Court 23

Manchester Parish Court (Small Claims Court 32

Portland Parish Court 49

Trelawny Parish Court 58

St. Ann Parish Court 67

Westmoreland Parish Court.....77

St. Mary Parish Court 86

St. Thomas Parish Court.....96

St. Elizabeth Parish Court.....105

Performance Summaries – Other Parish Courts..... 115

Aggregate case activity summaries – all Parish Courts.....116

Conclusion.....141

Glossary of Terms.....143

Chief Justice's Message

This report is the first comprehensive report on the civil courts in the Parish Courts system since 2016 when reliable and accurate data collection began across the court system. Let thank Dr. Denarto Dennis and the very small team of persons responsible for the excellent work they have been doing since 2016. J It is almost five years since this project of data collection began. With the benefit of hindsight, it should come as no surprise that former Chief Justices were hampered in their efforts to manage the courts effectively. They simply did not have the quality of data that is now available.

This quarterly report is important for several reasons. It not only confirms the need to have reliable, current and accurate data to inform decisions, but demonstrates that the Parish Courts have improved significantly in their operations despite the derelict buildings and inadequate technological support provided to these courts. The commitment of Judges and staff of these courts to providing a high quality of justice, timely judgments and effective service stands out and is confirmed by this report. This is reflected by a gross clearance rate of 116.93% and trial date certainty of 86.83%. This has resulted in the average time from filing to disposition being 10.40 months. This is exceptionally impressive in light of the fact that COVID 19 led to reduced court operations for the greater part of 2020.

Let me use this medium to memorialize my gratitude to the Judges and staff of these courts. You should feel justly proud for the great work that you have done this quarter. The stage is now set for even better performance having regard to the leadership and management training provided by Frankly Covey Jamaica sponsored by one of our local partners, National Integrity Action.

Consistent with our strategic plan, court leadership and management is the center piece of the Jamaican Judiciary's strategy to make our courts the best in the Caribbean and one of the best in the world in three and six years respectively.

As important as the quantitative aspect of the Parish Courts' operation is, the qualitative aspect is of equal concern to us. To that end, these courts have been emphasizing customer service, that is to say, those who interface with the courts are entitled to courteous, respectful, reliable and accurate service that meets your needs.

Despite the challenges, this is indeed an exciting time to part of the Jamaica Judiciary as we move steadily to being world class. Progress is being made. I urge all Judges and staff to continue the great work that you have been doing. Our destination is not far off. We are closer than you think.

Thank you.

Bryan Sykes OJ, CD
Chief Justice

Executive Summary

In the first quarter of 2021, the civil division of the parish courts excelled on several vital performance metrics, reinforcing the prospects of accomplishing the key quantitative objectives set out in the strategic plan of the judiciary. The Honourable Chief Justice has set a targeted court wide case clearance rate of 130% and a trial date certainty rate of 95% to be achieved by the end of the 2024/25 fiscal year. This civil report is to date the most comprehensive of its kind on case activity in the parish court civil jurisdiction. The findings establish that the civil division of the parish courts perform as well as the criminal division in several key areas, despite the fact that civil cases may on average travel more complex paths that depend quite a bit on third party actions and compliance.

One of the most impressive results from this first quarter report is the output on the vital measurement of the gross case clearance rates, with the civil division of the parish courts as a whole recording an impressive 116.93% for the first quarter of 2021. The Hanover Parish Court registered an unprecedented civil case clearance rate of 272.50%, the highest in recorded history for any court island wide in any major business line in a quarter. The Portland Parish Court with a gross case clearance rate of 232.61% had the second highest rate on this metric in the period. The Westmoreland Parish Court which has established itself as a consistent top performer across business lines came in third with a gross case clearance rate of 185.32%. Impressively, nine of the parish courts met or exceeded the 100% gross case clearance rate mark in the first quarter of 2021. The overall performance on the related gross case disposal rate was less impressive across the parish courts for the period but this is partly attributed to the relative distribution of return days for the period. The Hanover Parish Court however still stood out on this metric with the

highest rate recorded in the quarter of 62.50% while the Westmoreland Parish Court with a rate of 58.72% and the Clarendon Parish Court with 55.32% ranked next.

The civil division of the parish courts also feared quite commendably on the overall trial date certainty rate in the period, recording an overall rate of 86.83%, a marginal improvement of 1.45 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2020. The parish courts of St. Ann, St. Thomas and Trelawny were the leaders on this metric in the period. The speed with which decisions are delivered in civil cases is important as it contributes to increasing confidence in the judicial processes and it is a critical pillar of economic activity. The overall average time taken to dispose a civil case in the first quarter of 2021 is 326 days or roughly 10.87months, a slight increase of less than a month when compared to the first quarter of 2020. The Hanover Parish Court again ranked best on this measure having recorded the lowest average time to disposition in the quarter with 4.9 months, one of only two parish courts with an average time to disposition of under 6 months in this report. The Westmoreland Parish Court was the other, with an average time to disposition of 5 months while the St. Elizabeth Parish Court was next best with an average time to disposition of 6.10 months.

One of the most profound findings from this report comes from the analysis of the backlog rates. As of the end of the first quarter of 2021, the estimated gross case backlog rate in the civil division of the parish courts was 12.50%, that is, an estimated 12.50% of combined active and inactive cases in these courts were over two years old. When inactive cases are deducted however to produce the net case backlog rate, it is revealed that the estimated case backlog rate in the civil division of the parish courts as at the end of the first quarter of 2021 is 2.47%, an indication that roughly this proportion of active cases in the civil division of the parish courts were over two

years old at the end of the quarter. The Hanover, St. Catherine and St. Elizabeth Parish Courts were the best positioned courts on this metric in the first quarter of 2021, each with net civil case backlog rates of under 1%. Furthermore, roughly 91.82% of the cases disposed across the civil divisions of the parish courts in the first quarter of 2021 were disposed in two years or less while 80.75% were disposed in a year or less and 42.27 were disposed within 90 days.

The timely and efficient progression of cases in the civil courts is affected by several delays factors, among which in the first quarter of 2021 were the absence of defendants, no returns, the absence of both parties, the absence of the plaintiffs and attorney absenteeism, all of which were among the leading reasons for adjournment across the courts in the period. The dominant method of disposition for cases resolved were disposals by being struck out, by consent judgment, through settlement and by way of default judgments.

The civil division of the parish courts continue the trend of creditable performances and is well positioned as at the end of the first quarter of 2021 to make a profound contribution to the overall quantitative targets of the Jamaican judiciary as it strives to become the best in the region and one of the bests in the world over the coming years.

See below aggregate case activity summary:

Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate Gross Disposal rate (%)	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
4768	885	5575	18.56	116.93	86.83	11.1

Methodology – Generating Court Statistics in Jamaica

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 policymaking 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 five 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 (soon to be called Statistical Officers) in each court. These 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 data validation mechanism is in place to periodically sample case files in all parish courts and the Divisions of the Supreme Court on a quarterly basis. A representative sample of case files are taken in each case and crosschecked against the electronic data to detect and eliminate errors of omission and commission.

The Court Statistics Unit at the Supreme Court produces various quarterly and annual court reports which 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.

Introduction

This report details case activity in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021. Among the key case activity areas reported on are new cases filed, cases disposed and inactive over the period as well as the common causes of action and applications. Other key areas reported on include the absolute number of reissue dates over the period as well as the dominant methods of disposition and reasons for adjournment. The report also highlights the number of matters, which go into various types of enforcements such as judgment summons, warrants of levy and warrants of attachment and are thus reactivated as well as the outcomes of matters that proceed along this path. Important efficiency measures such as the case clearance rate, case disposal rates; trial date certainty rate and case congestion and courtroom utilization rates are computed as measures of court performance, where

sufficient data is available. These are important yardstick for assessing the courts in both an absolute and a relative way.

A full report is presented for each court and is subdivided into three main sections. The first section summarizes case flow activity and case demographics, the second section details case delay factors and dispositions as well as important performance metrics, and the third and final section summarizes case activity in the enforcement phase. The data produced for several of the courts rely on point estimates of the population parameters using a body of available representative data. This approach is however quite reliable and preserves data integrity and validity. One limitation is that the starting points of the data sets for all courts are not homogenous and therefore not entirely comparable at this stage. In some cases, the report also relies on the application of scientific sampling techniques to compensate for some data gaps.

The report culminates with critical cumulative case active summaries for the civil courts as a whole in the first quarter of 2021.

The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity and supporting demographics in the Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division in the first quarter of 2021. The data used in this section, largely represents the results of representative samples taken of case activity at the court. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting.

Table 1.0: Return Day activity for cases entered in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Cases entered in quarter	Active	Disposed	Inactive	Input/Output Rate from Return Day
1414	350	342	722	75.25%

The above table provides a breakdown of the cases handled at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division which had a return date set for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021. A total of 1414 cases were entered, of which 350 were still active at the end of the quarter. There were 342 disposed cases, and 722 cases were rendered as inactive at the end of the quarter. These results produced an input/output rate of 75.25% which is an indication that roughly 75% of cases with a scheduled return day either became inactive or disposed in the period of analysis.

Table 2.0: Summary of cases handled at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division in the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Active	Disposed	Inactive	Total Cases
814	980	904	2698

The above table provides a breakdown of the cases handled at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division in the first quarter of 2021. A total of 2698 cases were handled, of which 814 were still active at the end of the quarter. There were 980 disposed cases, and 904 cases were rendered as inactive at the end of the quarter.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	1044	79.21
Small Claim	274	20.79
Total	1318	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1318 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the first quarter of 2021. The larger proportion of which 1044 or 79.21% were big claims, while 274 or 20.79% were small claims.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action of cases entered at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	457	33.46
Damages for Negligence	166	12.15
Breach of contract under Section 146 (Pink Summons)	147	10.76
Recovery of Possession	147	10.76
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	96	7.03
Sub-total	1013	74.16

Total sample size of causes of action= 1366

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases entered in the quarter at the Corporate Area Civil Court was breach of contract with 457 or roughly 33.46% of the sample.

Damages for Negligence with 166 or 12.15% and breach of contract under Section 146 (Pink Summons) and recovery of possession with 147 or 10.76% each round off the top causes of action in this representative sample. The top five causes of action were rounded off with rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 96 or 7.03% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 74.16% of the total sample of 1366 causes of action.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of matters entered by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	759	46.74
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	555	34.17
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	267	16.44
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	40	2.46
Night Court #1 (main courthouse)	3	0.18
Total	1624	100.00

The largest proportion of a sample of 1624 matters entered in the first quarter of 2021 was entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 759 or 46.74% of the sample. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse had 555 matters entered or 34.17% of the sample and courtroom 4 (small claims) had 267 matters entered or 16.44%.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for matters entered in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	502	34.79
Female	482	33.40
Registered Company	438	30.35
Trading As	21	1.46
Total	1443	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1443 matters entered in the first quarter of 2021 at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the largest proportion of plaintiffs with 502 or 34.79%, followed by females with 482 or 33.40%. Registered companies accounted for 438 or 30.35% of the sample, while individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 1.46% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for matters entered in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	701	49.09
Female	553	38.73
Registered Company	155	10.85
Trading As	19	1.33
Total	1428	100.00

There were 1428 records on the gender of defendants for matters entered in the first quarter of 2021. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 701 or 49.09% of the sample, followed by females with 553 or 38.73%. Registered companies accounted for 155 or 10.85% of the sample, while individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 1.33% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to

occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	695	42.56
Default Judgment Date	395	24.19
Trial	362	22.17
Part-Heard Date	107	6.55
Date for Order	31	1.90
Hearing of Application	22	1.35
Final Judgment Date	20	1.22
Part Heard for Judgment	1	0.06
Total	1633	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 1633 matters that went to court during the first quarter of 2021, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 695 or 42.56% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 395 or 24.19%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for trial dates with 362 or 22.17% of sample. It is of note that 107 or 6.55% of the matters in this sample were adjourned part heard. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned at the mention stage and that there is a notable incidence of adjournments for default judgments to be entered. This result is however not an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are fundamental and intrinsic to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placed on Trial List	180	16.65
No Return/Re-Issued	171	15.82
Defendant Absent	161	14.89
At Counsel's Request	40	3.70
Both Parties Absent	39	3.61
Sub-total	591	54.67

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 1081

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 1081 incidences of adjournments heard in the first quarter of 2021. Adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 180 or 16.65% of the sample, adjournments due to no return/ for re-issue with 171 or 15.82% and adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 161 or 14.89% rounds off the top three incidences in the sample. The list is completed by adjournments at counsel's request with 40 or 3.70% of the sample and adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 3.61% of the sample. The top reasons of adjournments listed above account for 54.67% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	235	27.36
Consent	149	17.35
Default judgment	116	13.50
Oral Admission	78	9.08
Settlement	74	8.61
Sub-total	652	75.90

NB there were 859 matters were disposed in the first quarter of 2021

A total of 859 matters were disposed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the first quarter of 2021. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 652 or 75.90% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 235 or 27.36% of the

disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 149 or 17.35% and by default judgments with 116 or 13.50%. Oral admissions and settlements round off the top five methods with 78 or 9.08% and 74 or 8.61% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for matters entered in the first ended March 31, 2021

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	143	80.79
Settlement	33	18.64
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	1	0.56
Total	177	100.00

The above table summarizes the sample distribution of case outcomes for matters entered in the first quarter of 2021 at the Corporate Area Civil Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 143 or 80.79% of the sample of matters, account for the largest proportion, while settlements with 33 accounts for 18.64%. Judgment in favour of defendant with 0.56% round off the list. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimated for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of disposed and inactive case in the quarter	Approximate Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)
1318	1884	142.94

The above table shows 1318 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, a gross figure of 980 cases were disposed, and 904 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 142.94%, which exceeds the international standard for

this metric. This rate represents a 49.36 percentage points decrease when compared to the corresponding period in 2020.

The estimated net clearance rate is 74.36%, a 150.68 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2020. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
126	2	98.41

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 126 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that 2 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 98.41% which meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 98% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. The 2021 result is 8.29 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2020.

Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	617
Mean	367.8720
Std. Error of Mean	18.91343
Median	152.0000
Mode	70.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	469.79995
Skewness	3.297
Std. Error of Skewness	.098
Range	4251.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	4254.00

^a Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on 617 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2021 at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 367.87 days or roughly 1 year, which is roughly 151 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2020. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 70 days or 2.3 months. The standard deviation of roughly 470 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the high positive skewness is seen as an indication that there were markedly more scores in the data set which fall below the overall average time. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 4254 days or roughly 11.8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 3 days.

Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1276
Mean	448.4882
Std. Error of Mean	15.89560
Median	174.0000
Mode	12.00
Std. Deviation	567.80886
Skewness	2.552
Std. Error of Skewness	.068
Range	5438.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	5443.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1276 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter ended March 31, 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 448.49 days or roughly 15 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 12 days. The standard deviation of roughly 568 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 5443 days old or roughly 15 years, while the minimum time taken is 5 days.

Table 16.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Parish Court	Average overall Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Highest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Lowest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Standard Deviation of the Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Average Courtroom Utilization Rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average Number of Courtroom Adjournments Per Day
Corporate Area Court-Civil Division	68.40	129.17	6.39	26.55	N/A	1

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Court for the first quarter of 2021. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtroom (including outstations) which are utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocating for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The overall average courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Civil Court in the quarter was roughly 68.40%, which is an indication that on average roughly 68% of the available hours for court hearings in the first quarter of 2021. This rate is also 6.31 percentage points below the overall average courtroom utilization rate for the first quarter of 2020. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates is moderate, suggesting that on average the rates did not vary widely from the overall mean.

The sample size of days used to compute the rates for each court were sufficiently large and representative, though not the same for all courts. The margin of error of the courtroom utilization rates is a reliable $\pm 2.5\%$.

Hanover Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Hanover Parish Court for the first quarter of 2021.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	15	37.50
Disposed	15	37.50
Inactive	10	25.00
Total	40	100

The above table presents a status distribution of 40 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, 15 cases or 37.50% of these cases were still active, while 15 were disposed and 10 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 62.50%, which is 17.72 percentage points below the gross disposal rate recorded in the previous first quarter of 2020.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Type of claim	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	32	78.05
Small Claim	7	17.07
POCA	2	4.88
Total	41	100

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 41 civil claims filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the first quarter of 2021. The largest proportion of which 32 or 78.05% were big claims,

while 7 or 17.07% were small claims and 4.88% were claims in relation to the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA).

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service filed for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Type of service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	19	61.29
Bailiff	10	32.26
Personal	2	6.45
Total	31	100

Methods of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the district constable accounted for the highest proportion with 19 or 61.29% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 10 or 32.26% and personal service with 2 or 6.45% of the sample ranks next.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Hanover Parish Court-Civil division for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Cause of action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	11	47.83
Recovery of Possession	7	30.43
Rent Owing	3	13.04
Money Owing	2	8.70
Total	23	100.0

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for the quarter at the Hanover Parish Court was breach of contract with 11 or roughly 47.83% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 7 or 30.43%, rent owing with 13.04% and money owing with 8.70% of the sample rounds off the causes of action in this representative sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	19	46.34
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	14	34.15
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #2)	7	17.07
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #1)	1	2.44
Total	41*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 40 cases**

The largest proportions of a sample of 41 new matters filed in the quarter were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 19 or 46.34% of the total sample. Courtroom number 1 at the Sandy Bay outstation accounted for 14 or 34.15% of the cases filed. Courtroom number 2 at the Green Island outstation accounted for 7 or 17.07 and courtroom 1 at the Ramble outstation accounted for the remaining 2.44% of cases heard.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	23	56.10
Female	15	36.59
Registered Company	3	7.32
Total	41	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 41 plaintiffs in the first quarter of 2021 the Hanover Parish Court, 23 or 56.10% were males and females accounted for 15 or 36.59% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 7.32% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	24	58.54
Female	15	36.59
Registered Company	2	4.88
Total	41	100.00

There were 41 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021. The majority of defendants were male with 24 or 58.54% of the sample, followed by females with 15 or 36.59% of the sample and registered companies with 2 or 4.88% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantity of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delays factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	53	42.40
Mention Date	41	32.80
Default Judgment Date	17	13.60
Part-Heard Date	8	6.40
Hearing of Application	6	4.80
Total	125	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 125 matters that went to court during the quarter ended March 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 53 or 42.40% of the sample, were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for a mention date accounted for 41 or 32.80% of the sample and matters adjourned for a default judgment date accounted for 17 or 13.60% of the sample. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a part heard date with 8 or 6.40% of the sample and for the hearing of an application with 4.80% of the sample. As with other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for mention. This is however not an unusual outcome given that mention court hearings are fundamental and intrinsic to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Reasons for adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Attorney Absent	33	30.28
No Return/Re-Issued	24	22.02
Both Parties Absent	12	11.01
Defendant Absent	12	11.01
Plaintiff Absent	10	9.17
Sub-total	91	83.49

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)=109

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 109 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the first quarter of 2021. Adjournments due to the absence of attorneys accounted for 33 or 30.28% of the sample and adjournments due to no return/for reissue with 24 or 22.02% accounted for the largest proportion of the sample. Adjournments for the absenteeism of defendants and the absenteeism of both parties accounted for 12 or 11.01% each of the sample. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs round off the top of reasons for

adjournments during the quarter with 9.17% of the sample. The reasons for adjournments enumerated above account for 83.49% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Oral Admission	26	33.33
Default	19	24.36
Consent	13	16.67
Settlement	6	7.69
Final Judgment	4	5.13
Struck Out	4	5.13
Sub-total	72	92.31

NB: There were 78 matters disposed for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

A total of 354 civil matters were disposed at the Hanover Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 72 or 92.31% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by oral admissions with 26 or 33.33% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by default judgments with 19 or 24.36% and disposals by consent with 13 or 16.67%. Settlements account for 6 or 7.69% and final judgments and matters struck out round off the top five methods of disposition with 5.13% each of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)
40	25	109	272.50	62.50

The above table shows 40 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, a total of 15 of these cases were disposed and 10 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 62.50%, a 17.72 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2020. An approximate gross figure of 85 cases was disposed, and 24 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 272.50%, which exceeds the international standard on this metric and is a 136.24 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 50%, which is 11.7 percentage points below the net disposal rate recorded in the first quarter of 2020. The estimated net case clearance rate is 283.33%, which is 110.99 percentage points above the recorded 2020 rate. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense in a given period.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
25	6	76.00

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 25 trial dates were set in the first quarter of 2021 shows that 6 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 78.85%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a

roughly 76% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This outcome is a 9.33 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31,2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	52
Mean	147.40
Std. Error of Mean	37.000
Median	42.50
Mode	28
Std. Deviation	266.810
Skewness	3.768
Std. Error of Skewness	.330
Range	1547
Minimum	7
Maximum	1554

The above table outlines sample data on 52 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2021 at the Hanover Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 147 days or 4.9 months, which is roughly 47 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2020. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 267 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores. The high positive skewness suggests that most of the scores in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The oldest matter disposed in the sample was 1554 days or roughly 4.3 years, while the minimum time taken was just 7 days.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	106
Mean	666.62
Std. Error of Mean	89.752
Median	286.50
Mode	200
Std. Deviation	924.050
Skewness	2.878
Std. Error of Skewness	.235
Range	4409
Minimum	81
Maximum	4490

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 667 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 200 days. The standard deviation of roughly 924 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion in the individual scores around the average, while the moderately large positive skewness seen is an indication that there were markedly more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 4490 days old or 12.5 years, while the minimum time taken is 81 days.

Manchester Court –Civil Division (Small Claims Court)

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity and supporting demographics regarding small claims at the Manchester Parish Court in the first quarter of 2021.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	41	73.21
Disposed	15	26.79
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	56	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 56 new small claim cases filed at the Manchester Court in the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, 41 of these cases were still active and 15 were disposed. This led to an estimated net disposal rate of 26.79%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Manchester Parish Court-Civil division for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Cause of action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Monies Due & Owing	15	26.79
Arrears of Rent	6	10.71
Damages to Cultivation	3	5.36
Balance of money due and owing for work done	2	3.57
Loan	2	3.57
Refund of Money	2	3.57
Sub-total	30	53.57

Total sample size of causes of action =56

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for the first quarter of 2021 at the Manchester Parish Court was monies due and owing with 15 or roughly 26.79% of the sample.

Arrears of rent with 6 or 10.71% and damages to cultivation with 3 or 5.36% of the sample round off the leading causes of action in this representative sample. Balance of money due and owing for work done, loan and refund of money with 2 or 3.57% each rank next. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 53.57% of all the total sample of 56 causes of action.

Table 3.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Courtroom/outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Small claim court #2	34	60.71
Small claim court #3	22	39.29
Total	56*	100

***Note: Corresponding to 56 cases**

The larger proportion of a sample of 56 new small claims filed in the first quarter of 2021 was entered in courtroom number 2 at the small claims court with 34 or 60.71%. Courtroom number 3 at the small claims court accounted for the remaining 22 or 39.29% of the total sample.

Table 4.0: Distribution of applications filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for court	56	100.0

A sample of 56 applications filed relating to small claims during the first quarter of 2021 were all applications for court order.

Case Demographics for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	36	65.45
Female	15	27.27
Registered Company	4	7.27
Total	55	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 55 new small claims filed in the first quarter of 2021 at the Manchester Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 36 or 65.45% of the sample, followed by females with 15 or 27.27% of the sample and registered company with 7.27% of the sample.

Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	36	65.45
Female	18	32.73
Registered Company	1	1.82
Total	55	100.00

There were 55 records on gender of defendants for new small claims filed in the first quarter of 2021. The majority of defendants were male with 36 or 65.45% of the sample, followed by females with 18 or 32.73% of the sample and registered companies with 1.82%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantity of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delays factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 7.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	21	35.59
Default Judgment Date	18	30.51
Mention Date	17	28.81
Part-Heard Date	3	5.08
Total	59	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 59 small claims that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2020, which were adjourned for a default, judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 21 or 35.59% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 18 or 30.51%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 17 or 28.81% of matters, which were adjourned for a mention date and 5.08% of the sample which was adjourned for a part heard date.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Reasons for adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	33	31.73
Defendant Absent	21	20.19
No Return/Re-Issued	12	11.54
Other	10	9.62
Placed on Trial List	6	5.77
Total	82	78.85

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)=104

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 104 incidences of adjournments in the first quarter of 2021. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 33 or 31.73% of the sample, adjournments due to absence of defendants with 21 or 20.19% and adjournments due no return/for reissue with 12 or 11.54% of the sample rounds off the top three incidences in the sample. The list is completed by adjournments pooled under “other” reasons with 9.62% of the

sample and adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 5.77% of the sample. The top reasons of adjournment listed above account for 78.85% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances for small claim matters heard in the quarter.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	73	73.74
Final Judgment	15	15.15
Settlement	9	9.09
Non-Suited	1	1.01
Withdrawal	1	1.01
Total	99	100.00

The above table summarizes 99 small claims which were disposed at the Manchester Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021 and the above table details the methods of disposition. The list is led by matters struck out with 73 or 73.74% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by final judgements with 15 or 15.15% and by settlements with 9 or 9.09%. Withdrawals and matters non-suited with 1.01% each round off the methods round off the sample of dispositions.

Table 10.0: Case flow performance estimates for first quarter ended March 31, 2020

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed cases in the quarter	Approximate Net Case Clearance Rate (%)	Approximate Net Case Disposal Rate (%)
56	15	95	169.64	26.79

The above table shows 56 new small claims filed at the Manchester Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, a total of 15 of these cases were disposed, leading to an estimated net case disposal rate of 26.79%. An approximate gross figure of 95 cases were

disposed during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to an estimated net case clearance rate of 169.64%.

The overall net case disposal rate (big and small claims combined) at the Manchester Parish Court for the quarter was 56.73% and the net case clearance rate is 127.97%.

Table 11.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	67
Mean	346.93
Std. Error of Mean	18.274
Median	336.00
Mode	336
Std. Deviation	149.581
Skewness	1.321
Std. Error of Skewness	.293
Range	854
Minimum	63
Maximum	917

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 67 small claims disposed in the first quarter of 2021 at the Manchester Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 347 days or 11.6 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition and the median time were both 336 days. The standard deviation of roughly 150 days is an indication that there is a small variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 917 days or roughly 2.5 years old, while the minimum time taken was 63 days.

Table 12.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	181
Mean	639.1160
Std. Error of Mean	30.68956
Median	674.0000
Mode	954.00
Std. Deviation	412.88576
Skewness	3.377
Std. Error of Skewness	.181
Range	4205.00
Minimum	9.00
Maximum	4214.00

The above data is based on sample of 181 active small claims at the end of the first quarter of 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 639 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 954 days. The standard deviation of roughly 413 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the average, while the large positive skewness seen is an indication that there were markedly more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 4214 days old or roughly 11.7 years, while the minimum age is 9 days.

St. Catherine Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the period as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	693	83.90
Disposed	47	5.69
Inactive	86	10.41
Total	826	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 826 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, 693 cases or 83.90% of these cases were still active, while 47 were disposed and 86 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 16.10%, which is 14.37 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2020.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	890	88.73
Small Claim	111	11.07
POCA	2	0.20
Total	1003	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 1003 claims filed in the first quarter of 2021, 890 or 88.73% were big claims, 111 or 11.07% were small claims and 2 were Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	118	43.70
Personal	115	42.59
District Constable	37	13.70
Total	270	100.00

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the highest proportion with 118 or 43.70% of the sample, personal service accounted for 115 or 42.59% and service by the district constable accounted for 37 or 13.70% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil division for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Cause of action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	332	33.77
Damages for Negligence	289	29.40
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	80	8.14
Recovery of possession	79	8.04
Rent Owing and Continuing	59	6.00
Sub-total	839	85.35

Total sample size of causes of action=983

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table details a sample of 983 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was breach of contract with 332 or roughly 33.77% of the sample, damages for negligence with 289 or 29.40%

and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 80 or 8.14%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by recovery of possession with 79 or 8.04% and rent owing and continuing with 59 or 6% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 85.35% of the total sample of causes of action.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	827	82.53
Linstead Outstation (courtroom #1)	123	12.28
Old Harbour Outstation (courtroom #1)	52	5.19
Total	1002*	100.00

*Note: Corresponding to 826 cases

The largest proportion of the sample of 1002 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2021 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 827 or 82.53% of the total sample. 123 or 12.28% that were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Linstead outstation followed this. Courtroom number 1 at the Old Harbour outstation accounted for the remaining 52 or 5.19% of the claims.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	540	54.22
Female	320	32.13
Registered Company	136	13.65
Total	996	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021, males accounted for the largest proportion with 540 or 54.22%, followed by females with 320 or 32.13% and registered companies with 136 or 13.65%.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	638	64.25
Female	316	31.82
Registered Company	39	3.93
Total	993	100.00

There were 993 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 638 or 64.25% of the total sample, followed by females with 316 or 31.82%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 39 or 3.93% of the total sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantity of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delays factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	529	38.84
Trial	402	29.52
Default Judgment Date	294	21.59
Part-Heard Date	92	6.75
Hearing of Application	41	3.01
Judgment Date	4	0.29
Total	1362	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1362 matters that went to court during the first quarter of 2021, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 529 or 38.84% were adjourned for a mention date and 402 or 29.52% were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 294 or 21.59% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 92 or 6.75% of the sample.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Reasons for adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placed on Trial List	279	20.20
Defendant Absent	202	14.63
Pending Settlement	103	7.46
Both Parties Absent	60	4.34
Parties in Discussion	40	2.90
Sub-total	684	49.53

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)=1381

The above table details a sample of 1381 adjournments or continuances heard in the quarter, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to placement on the trial

list with 279 or 20.20% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 202 or 14.63% and adjournments for pending settlements with 103 or 7.46% and the absence of both parties with 60 or 4.34%% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Adjournments for parties in discussion with 40 or 2.90% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 49.53% of the total sample.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	147	29.11
Consent	142	28.12
Settlement	70	13.86
Default Judgments	57	11.29
Trial	43	8.51
Sub-total	459	90.89

NB: There were 505 matters disposed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 505 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2021. The list is led by matters struck out with 147 or 29.11% of the disposals, followed by disposals by consent with 142 or 28.12%, settlements with 70 or 13.86% and default judgments with 57 or 11.29%. Matters disposed at trial account for 43 or 8.51% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 90.89% of the sample.

Table 11: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	35	94.59
Settlement	2	5.41
Total	37	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 37 matters in the first quarter of 2021. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 35 or 94.59% of the total, accounts for the larger proportion, while settlements with 2 or 5.41% rank next. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases	Approximate Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)
826	133	829	100.36	16.10

The above table shows 826 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, a total of 47 of these cases were disposed and 86 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 16.10%, which is 14.37 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2020. An approximate gross figure of 435 cases was disposed and 394 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 100.36%, which meets the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 40.95 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2020.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 6.35%, which is 5.02 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2020. The net clearance for the quarter is 58.78%, which is 15.75 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2020. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focussing

only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
189	12	93.65

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 189 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 12 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 93.65%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 94% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate satisfies the prescribed International benchmark of between 90% and 100 and is an increase of 0.94 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	349
Mean	432.8625
Std. Error of Mean	23.76258
Median	322.0000
Mode	56.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	443.92162
Skewness	1.737
Std. Error of Skewness	.131
Range	2101.00

Minimum	14.00
Maximum	2115.00

a Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 349 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2021 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 433 days or 14.4 months, which is roughly 26 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2020. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 56 days. There is a relatively high standard deviation of 444 days, which is an indication that there is a relatively wide variation of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores that fall below the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2115 days or roughly 5.9 years old, while the youngest was 14 days.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1921
Mean	594.3139
Std. Error of Mean	13.67207
Median	394.0000
Mode	197.00
Std. Deviation	599.23626
Skewness	1.975
Std. Error of Skewness	.056
Range	7116.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	7117.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1921 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 594 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 197 days. The standard deviation of roughly 599 days suggests that there is a large dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 7117 days old or roughly 19.8 years, while the minimum time taken is just 1 day.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Number of observations	77
Mean	39.5325
Std. Error of Mean	2.67060
Median	30.0000
Mode	27.00
Std. Deviation	23.43445
Skewness	.413
Std. Error of Skewness	.274
Range	81.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	86.00

The above table outlines summary data on the age of a sample of 77 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Court as at the quarter ended March 31, 2021. The average age of these matters at the end of the quarter is roughly 40 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 27 days. The modest standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicates that more of the data points were below the average. The highest age of active reissued cases in the sample set is 86 days and the lowest is 5 days.

Portland Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Portland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	25	54.35
Disposed	14	30.43
Inactive	7	15.22
Total	46	100

The above table presents a status distribution of 46 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, 25 or 54.35% were still active, 14 or 30.43% were disposed and 7 or 15.22% were inactive. This data suggests that the estimated gross case disposal rate for the quarter was 45.65%, which is a 11.53 percentage points improvement compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	33	70.21
Small Claim	14	29.79
Total	47	100

The above table shows that from the 47 new claims filed in the quarter, the larger proportion of which 33 or 70.21% were big claims, while 14 or 29.79% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of cases filed for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	27	58.70
Personal	19	41.30
Total	46	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the higher proportion with 27 or 58.70% of the sample, while personal service accounted for 19 or 41.30%.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court-Civil division for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Causes of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	14	31.82
Monies Owing	8	18.18
Recovery of Possession	7	15.91
Rent Owing and Continuing	5	11.36
Negligence	4	9.09
Sub-total	38	86.36

Total sample size of causes of action=44

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 44 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action were breach of contract with 14 or roughly 31.82% of the total sample, monies owing with 8 or 18.18% and recovery of possession with 7 or 15.91%. Rent owing and continuing and negligence round off the top five causes of action for the quarter with 11.36% and 9.09% respectively. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 86.36% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Courtroom/outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	12	30.77
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	11	28.21
Manchioneal Outstation	6	15.38
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	4	10.26
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	3	7.69
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #2)	3	7.69
Total	39*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 39 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 39 new matters filed in the quarter was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 12 or 30.77% of the sample of accommodations. 11 or 28.21% that were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse followed this, while the 6 matters that entered in Manchioneal outstation rank next. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse account for 4 or 10.26% and courtrooms 1 and 2 at the Buff Bay outstation each account for 7.69% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	26	55.32
Female	19	40.43
Registered Company	2	4.26
Total	47	100.0

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 47 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021, males accounted for the largest proportion with 26 or 55.32%, followed by females with 19 or 40.43% and registered companies with 2 or 4.26%.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	33	70.21
Female	12	25.53
Registered Company	2	4.26
Total	47	100.0

There were 47 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the quarter. The majority of defendants were male with 33 or 70.21% of the sample, followed by females with 12 or 25.53% of the sample and registered companies with 2 or 4.26%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	198	54.40
Trial	72	19.78
Default Judgment Date	66	18.13
Part-Heard Date	26	7.14
Date for Order	2	0.55
Total	364	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 364 matters that were heard during the first quarter ended March 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 198 or 54.40% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 72 or 19.78%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for default judgment dates with 66 or 18.13% and for part heard dates with 26 or 7.14% accounted for the largest proportions. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the quarter at the Portland Parish Court.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	54	18.49
New Date	33	11.30
Pending Settlement	32	10.96
No Return/Re-Issued	31	10.62
Both Parties Absent	24	8.22
Sub-total	174	59.59

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)=292

The above data is computed from a sample of 292 reasons for adjournment heard in the first quarter of 2021. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 54 or 18.49% account for the highest share of the adjournments, followed by adjournments for a new date to be set with 33 or 11.30%. Pending settlements with 32 or 10.96% of the sample account for the third highest share of the reasons for adjournment. The list is completed by adjournments for no return/ for re-issue with 31 or 10.62% of the sample and the absence of both parties with 24 or 8.22% rank next. The reasons for adjournment listed account for 59.59% of the total sample of reasons for adjournments/continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	13	14.94
Final Judgment	12	13.79
Withdrawal	12	13.79
Oral Admission	11	12.64
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	9	10.34
Sub-total	57	65.52

NB: There were 87 matters disposed for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

A total of 87 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. The distribution is led by dispositions by consent with 13 or 14.94%, followed by final judgments and withdrawals with 12 or 13.79% each. Oral admissions with 11 or 12.64% and notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 9 or 10.34% complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the quarter. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 65.52% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases	Approximate Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)
46	21	107	232.61	45.65

The above table shows 46 new cases filed at the Portland Court during the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, 14 of these cases were disposed and 7 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 45.65%, an improvement of 11.53 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2020. An approximate gross figure of 89 cases were disposed, and 18 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which having dates of origin

predating 2021. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 232.61%, which far exceeds the international standard for this metric and represents an increase of 67.90 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 35.90%, an improvement of 11.58 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2020. The estimated net clearance rate is 228.21%, an improvement of 66.05 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2021. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 12.0: Trial date certainty for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
30	6	80.00

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. Using A sample of 30 trial dates set in the quarter, it is seen that 6 were adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 80%. The output suggests that during the quarter there was roughly an 80% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment, representing a 4 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	71
Mean	389.34
Std. Error of Mean	59.911
Median	129.00
Mode	28
Std. Deviation	504.822
Variance	254845.341
Skewness	2.119
Std. Error of Skewness	.285
Range	2513
Minimum	7
Maximum	2520

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 71 civil matters disposed in first quarter of 2021 at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 389 days (13 months), which is roughly 159 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2020. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. There is a high standard deviation of roughly 505 days, is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness observed is an indication that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fall below the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2520 days or roughly 7 years old, while the youngest was 7 days.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	456
Mean	782.4101
Std. Error of Mean	30.82008
Median	639.0000
Mode	149.00
Std. Deviation	658.13685
Skewness	.949
Std. Error of Skewness	.114
Range	3376.00
Minimum	28.00
Maximum	3404.00

The above data is computed using 456 active cases at the end of the first quarter of 2021. The average age of these cases was roughly 782 days (2.2 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 149 days (5 months). The standard deviation of roughly 658 days suggests that there is some dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fall below the mean. The oldest active case in this sample was 3404 days (9.5 years), while the youngest 28 days.

Trelawny Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Trelawny Parish Court in the first quarter of 2021.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	147	81.67
Disposed	33	18.33
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	180	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 169 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, 147 or 81.67% of these cases were active, and 33 or 18.33% were disposed at the end of the quarter. This produces a gross case disposal rate of 18.33%, a 7.3 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	132	69.84
Small Claims	57	30.16
Total	189	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 189 civil claims filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the first quarter of 2021. The larger proportion of which 132 or 69.84% were big claims, while 57 or 30.16% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	161	85.19
Bailiff	28	14.81
Total	189	100

Methods of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the higher proportion with 161 or 85.19% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 28 or 14.81% accounted for the remaining proportion.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil division for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	34	18.18
Money Owing	28	14.97
Arrears of Rent and Recovery of Possession	26	13.90
Money Loaned	11	5.88
Return of Cash	10	5.35
Total	109	58.28

Total sample size of causes of action=187

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, among the leading causes of action in the quarter were recovery of possession with 34 or 18.18% and monies owing with 28 or 14.97%. Arrears of rent and recovery of possession with 26 or 13.90%, money loaned with 11 or 5.88% and return of cash with 5.35% each of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 58.28% of all the total sample of 187 causes of action.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Falmouth Outstation	127	67.20
Ulster Spring Outstation	26	13.76
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	23	12.17
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	13	6.88
Total	189*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 180 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 127 new matters filed in 67.20% of the accommodations was entered in the Falmouth outstation. 26 or 13.76% matters that were entered in the Ulster Spring Outstation followed this, while court sittings at courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town outstation ranked next with 23 is 12.17% of the accommodations. Courtroom number 1 at main courthouse outstation accounted for 13 or 6.88% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	94	50.81
Male	82	44.32
Registered Company	9	4.86
Total	185	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 185 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021 at the Trelawny Parish Court, females accounted for the largest proportion with 94 or 50.81%, followed by males with 82 or 44.32%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 4.86% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	131	71.58
Female	48	26.23
Registered Company	4	2.19
Total	183	100.00

There were 183 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021. The majority of defendants were male with 131 or 71.58% of the sample, followed by females with 48 or 26.23% and registered companies with 2.19%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	136	54.84
Trial	48	19.35
Default Judgment Date	45	18.15
Part-Heard Date	19	7.66
Total	248	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 248 matters that were heard during the first quarter ended March 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 136 or 54.84% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 48 or 19.35%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for default judgment dates with 45 or 18.15% and for part heard dates with 19 or 7.66% rank next. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for mention dates which is expected in civil and other case types.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Reasons for adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	80	32.65
No Return/Re-Issued	35	14.29
Defendant Absent	34	13.88
Plaintiff Absent	20	8.16
Referred to Mediation	15	6.12
Sub-total	184	75.10

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)=245

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 245 incidence of adjournments/continuance heard in the first quarter of 2021. Adjournments due absence of both parties with 80 or 32.65% of the sample, no return/re-issued with 35 or 14.29% and defendants being absent with 34 or 13.88% of the sample feature prominently on the list. Adjournments for the absence of plaintiffs with 20 or 8.16% and adjournments for referrals to mediation with 15 or 6.12% of the sample close out the list. The top five reasons for adjournments, which are listed above, account for 75.10% of the entire sample.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Method of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	56	36.84
Oral Admission	29	19.08
Consent	25	16.45
Default Judgment	24	15.79
Withdrawal	7	4.61
Total	141	92.77

NB: There were 152 matters disposed for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 152 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2021. The list is led by matters struck out with 56 or 36.84% of the dispositions, followed by oral admissions with 29 or 19.08% and matters disposed by consent with 25 or 16.45% of the sample. Matters disposed by default judgments account for 24 or 15.79% of the sample and withdrawals account for 7 or 4.61%. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above accounted for 92.77% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of cases disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases	Approximate Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)
180	33	149	82.77	18.33

The above table shows 180 new cases were filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, a total of 33 cases were disposed which led to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 18.33%, a fall of 5.34 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2020. An approximate gross figure of 149 cases were disposed, many

of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 82.77%, which is slightly below the international standard for this metric and 1.25 percentage points below the corresponding output in the first quarter of 2020. The gross clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the active cases which were disposed.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
10	0	100

Another important performance metric is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 10 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that none was adjourned. This results in an overall estimated trial date certainty rate of 100% which suggests that during the quarter. This outcome met the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 20 percentage points higher than the corresponding figure in the first quarter of 2020.

Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	76
Mean	193.91
Std. Error of Mean	23.050
Median	115.00
Mode	56
Std. Deviation	200.949
Skewness	1.882
Std. Error of Skewness	.276

Range	878
Minimum	24
Maximum	902

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 76 civil cases disposed in the first quarter of 2021 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 194 days or 6.5 months, which is roughly 21 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2020. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 56 days and the median time was 115 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 201 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the positive skewness is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the quarter was 902 days or roughly 2.5 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 24 days.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	305
Mean	327.0328
Std. Error of Mean	16.96623
Median	215.0000
Mode	29.00
Std. Deviation	296.30249
Skewness	1.405
Std. Error of Skewness	.140
Range	1539.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	1544.00

The above data is computed using 305 active cases at the end of the first quarter of 2021. The average age of these cases was roughly 327 days (10.9 months), while the most frequently

occurring age in the distribution was 29 days. The moderate standard deviation of roughly 296 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set which fall below the overall mean. The oldest active case in this sample is 1544 days (4.3 years old), while the youngest is 5 days.

St. Ann Court –Civil Division (Including Brown’s Town)

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Ann Parish Court in the first quarter of 2021.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	381	89.86
Disposed	21	4.95
Inactive	22	5.19
Total	424	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 424 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, 381 cases or 89.86% of these cases were still active, 21 were disposed and 22 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 10.14%, which is a 17.73 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	390	77.69
Small Claim	111	22.11
POCA	1	0.20
Total	502	100.00

The above table shows that from 502 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2021, the largest proportion of which were big claims with 390 or 77.69%, while 111 or 22.11% were small claims and 1 was a Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claim.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	55	41.35
Bailiff	54	40.60
Personal	24	18.05
Total	133	100.00

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the district constable accounted for the highest proportion with 55 or 41.35% of the sample. Service by the bailiff accounted for 54 or 40.60% and personal service accounted for the remaining 24 or 18.05% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court-Civil division for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	188	43.22
Damages for Negligence	59	13.56
Recovery of Possession	46	10.57
Rent Owing	26	5.98
Rent Owing and Continuing	24	5.52
Sub-total	343	78.85

Total sample size of causes of action (N) =435

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 435 matters, from which the leading causes of action for the first quarter of 2021 was breach of contract with 188 or roughly 43.22% of the sample and damages for negligence with 59 or 13.56%. Recovery of possession with 46 or 10.57%, rent owing with 26 or 5.98% and rent owing and continuing with 24 or 5.52% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 78.85% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	128	80.50
Claremont Outstation	26	16.35
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	5	3.14
Total	159*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 148 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 159 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, accounting for 128 or 80.50% of the total sample. The Claremont Outstation accounted for 26 or 16.35% and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 5 or 3.14% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	215	42.83
Female	172	34.26
Registered Company	113	22.51
Trading As	2	0.40
Total	502	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 502 new matters filed in the first quarter, males accounted for the largest proportion with 215 or 42.83%, followed by females with 172 or 34.26% and registered companies with 113 or 22.51% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 2 or 0.40% accounted for the smallest proportion of the total sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	302	60.76
Female	166	33.40
Registered Company	23	4.63
Trading As	6	1.21
Total	497	100.00

There were 497 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 302 or 60.76% of the total, followed by females with 166 or 33.40%. Registered companies accounted for 23 or 4.63% of the total sample, followed by individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 6 or 1.21% of the total sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	494	47.23
Default Judgment Date	253	24.19
Trial	183	17.50
Part-Heard Date	103	9.85
Hearing of Application	11	1.05
Final Judgment Date	2	0.19
Total	1046	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 1046 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 494 or 47.23% of the sample, followed by 253 or 24.19%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 183 or 17.50% of matters, which were adjourned for trial. Matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 103 or 9.85% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No return/Re-Issued	271	20.62
Defendant Absent	246	18.72
Both Parties Absent	147	11.19
Pending Settlement	106	8.07
Placed on Trial List	99	7.53
Sub-total	869	66.13

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)=1314

The above table details a sample of 1314 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the first quarter of 2021, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the no return/for re-issue with 271 or 20.62% of the sample, adjournments due to the defendant being absent with 246 or 18.72% and the absence of both parties with 147 or 11.19% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by pending settlements with 106 or 8.07% and adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 99 or 7.53% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 66.13% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Methods of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	103	26.21
Settlement	100	25.45
Consent	68	17.30
Default Judgment	41	10.43
Oral Admission	31	7.89
Sub-total	343	87.28

NB: There were 393 matters disposed for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

A sample of 393 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2021 revealed that 103 or 26.21% of matters were struck out, 100 or 25.45% were disposed by settlements and 68 or 17.30% of the sample were disposed by consent. Matters disposed by default judgments with 41 or 10.43% and disposals by oral admissions with 31 or 7.89% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 87.28% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the first quarter of 2021.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Approximately number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases	Approximate Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)
424	43	539	127.12	10.14

The above table shows 424 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, a total of 21 cases were disposed and 22 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 10.14%, a fall of 17.73 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2020. An approximate gross figure of 312 cases were disposed, and 227 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 127.12%, which is above the international standard for this metric and represents a 13.18 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 5.22%, a fall of 1.11 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2020. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 77.61%, a fall of 1.58 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2020. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of active cases which were disposed.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
20	0	100

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 20 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that none was adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 19.15 percentage points above the corresponding rate in the first quarter of 2020.

Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	224
Mean	486.7411
Std. Error of Mean	33.73322
Median	350.0000
Mode	737.00
Std. Deviation	504.87257
Skewness	1.820
Std. Error of Skewness	.163
Range	2286.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	2304.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 224 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2021 at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 487 days or 16.2 months, which is roughly 261 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2020. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 737 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 505 days is an indication that there is a

wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were markedly more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2304 days or roughly 6.4 years old, while the minimum time taken was 18 days.

Table 14.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)	
Number of observations	1263
Mean	647.9644
Std. Error of Mean	21.23015
Median	434.0000
Mode	119.00
Std. Deviation	754.49230
Skewness	2.503
Std. Error of Skewness	.069
Range	5860.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	5867.00

The above data is based on sample of 1263 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 648 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 119 days. The standard deviation of roughly 754 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 5867 days old or roughly 16.3 years, while the minimum age is 7 days.

Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	45
Mean	35.62
Std. Error of Mean	3.586
Median	28.00
Mode	13
Std. Deviation	24.055
Skewness	.499
Std. Error of Skewness	.354
Range	77
Minimum	7
Maximum	84

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 45 active reissued matters at the St. Ann Parish Court as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 36 days, with the most frequently occurring age was 13 days and the median age was 28 days. The modest standard deviation indicates that there was some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series mean, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the ages were clustered around the series average. The highest age in the data set was 84 days and the lowest was 7 days.

Westmoreland Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the first quarter of 2021.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	45	41.28
Disposed	43	39.45
Inactive	21	19.27
Total	109	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 109 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, 45 cases or 41.28% of these cases were still active, while 43 or 39.45% were disposed and 21 or 19.27% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 58.72%, which is a 3.66 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	104	77.61
Small Claim	30	22.39
Total	134	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 134 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2021. The larger proportion of which 104 or 77.61% were big claims, while 30 or 22.39% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Type of service	Frequency	percentage (%)
Bailiff	75	57.69
Personal	55	42.31
Total	130	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the higher proportion with 75 or 57.69% of the sample, while personal service accounted for 55 or 42.31%.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil division for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	19	14.18
Negligence	10	7.46
Recovery of Monies	9	6.72
Breach of Agreement	8	5.97
Breach of Contract	8	5.97
Damages for Negligence	8	5.97
Sub-total	62	46.27

Total sample size of causes of action=134

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for the first quarter of 2021 at the Westmoreland Parish Court were recovery of possession with 19 or roughly 14.18% of the sample. Negligence with 10 or 7.46%, recovery of monies owing with 9 or 6.72%, breach of agreement, breach of contract and damages for negligence with 8 or 5.97% each round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 46.27% of the sample of 134 causes of action.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Courtroom/outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	47	36.43
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	35	27.13
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	32	24.81
Whithorn Outstation	15	11.63
Total	129*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 105 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 129 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021 was entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 47 or 36.43% of the sample. 35 or 27.13% that were entered in courtroom 2 followed this, while courtroom number 1 accounted for roughly 24.81% of the incidence. Sittings at the Whithorn outstation accounted for the remaining 11.63% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	80	60.61
Female	49	37.12
Registered Company	3	2.27
Total	132	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 132 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021 at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 80 or 60.61%, followed by females with 49 or 37.12%. Registered companies accounted for 3 or 2.27% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	78	58.65
Female	47	35.34
Registered Company	8	6.02
Total	133	100.00

There were 133 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 78 or 58.65% of the sample, followed by females with 47 or 35.34%. Registered companies account for 6.02% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2021

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	189	71.86
Trial	43	16.35
Final Judgment Date	29	11.03
Default Judgment Date	1	0.38
Hearing of Application	1	0.38
Total	263	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 263 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a default judgment, a final judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural adjournment. The largest proportion, 189 or 71.86% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 43 or 16.35%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 29 or 11.03% of matters, which were adjourned for final judgment dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for trial or mention court hearings. This is, however, not an unusual outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Reasons for adjournment/continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
For Mention (continuance)	5	11.63
Defendant Absent	2	4.65
Attorney Absent	1	2.33
Document/Disclosure	1	2.33
File Incomplete	1	2.33
Medical Certificate Outstanding	1	2.33
Placed on Trial List	1	2.33
Refer to Surveyor	1	2.33
Other	30	69.77
Total	43	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 43 incidences of adjournments heard in the first quarter of 2021. Otherwise from the reasons of adjournment pooled under “other”, the leading reason for adjournment/continuance for the quarter is for continuances, which are

intrinsic to the progression of a case, for mention, with 5 or 11.63% of the sample and adjournments due the absence of defendants with 2 or 4.65% of the sample rank next.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	42	22.11
Withdrawal	35	18.42
Oral Admission	33	17.37
Settlement	23	12.11
Struck Out	20	10.53
Total	153	80.53

NB: There were 190 matters disposed for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

A total of 190 civil matters were disposed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 80.53% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 42 or 22.11% of the disposals, followed by withdrawals with 35 or 18.42% and matters disposed by oral admissions with 33 or 17.37%. Matters disposed by settlements with 23 or 12.11% and matters struck out with 20 or 10.53% round off the top five methods dispositions.

Table 11: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	32	82.05
Settlement	7	17.95
Total	39	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the first quarter of 2021 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 32 or 82.05% of the sample of matters, accounts for the larger proportion, while settlements account for 17.95%. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the

likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Approximately number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)
109	64	202	185.32	58.72

The above table shows 109 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, a total of 43 of these cases were disposed, and 21 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 58.72, an improvement of 3.66 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2021. A gross figure of 160 cases was disposed, and 42 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 185.32%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 48.86%, which is 10.4 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2020. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 181.82%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
20	1	95.00

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 20 trial dates were set in the quarter, of which 1 was adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 95%. The output suggests that during the quarter there was an estimated 95% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment, an increase of 4.52 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	115
Mean	150.1565
Std. Error of Mean	12.63191
Median	98.0000
Mode	364.00
Std. Deviation	135.46215
Skewness	.924
Std. Error of Skewness	.226
Range	613.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	616.00

The above table outlines summary data on 115 civil matters disposed in the first quarter at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 150 days or 5 months, which is roughly 110 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the first

quarter of 2020. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 364 days. The moderate standard deviation is an indication that there is some variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean time and the modest positive skewness is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 616 days or roughly 1.7 years, while the minimum time taken was just 3 days.

Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	297
Mean	248.9394
Std. Error of Mean	12.46493
Median	198.0000
Mode	238.00
Std. Deviation	214.81674
Skewness	1.021
Std. Error of Skewness	.141
Range	728.00
Minimum	21.00
Maximum	749.00

The above data is based on sample of 280 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 249 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 238 days. The standard deviation of roughly 215 days suggests that there some dispersion of the individual scores around the average. The positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more scores in the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest age of active cases was 749 days or 2.1 years, and the youngest time is 21 days.

St. Mary Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Mary Parish Court for the first quarter of 2021.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	132	61.11
Disposed	59	27.31
Inactive	25	11.57
Total	216	100

The above table presents a status distribution of 216 new civil cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, 132 or 61.11% were still active, 59 or 27.31% were disposed and 25 or 11.57% were inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 38.89% for the quarter, which is a 5.04 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	189	72.97
Small Claim	70	27.03
Total	259	100

The above table shows that from the 259 new claims filed in the quarter, the larger proportion were big claims, which accounted for 189 or 72.97% of the total sample, while 70 or 27.03% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Type of service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	251	96.91
Bailiff	8	3.09
Total	259	100

Types of service as used above refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the higher proportion with 251 or 96.91% of the sample, with service by the bailiff accounting for the remaining 8 or 3.09%.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil division for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	16	51.61
Money Owing	6	19.35
Damages for Negligence	5	16.13
Breach of Contract	3	9.68
Arrears of Rent	1	3.23
Total	31	100.00

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The data in the above table is computed using a sample of 31 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the first quarter of 2021 at the St. Mary Parish Court was recovery of possession with 16 or roughly 51.61% of the sample and money owing with 6 or

19.35% of the total sample of causes of action. Damages for negligence with 5 or 16.13% and breach of contract with 3 or 9.68% rank next. The causes of action in this sample are rounded off by arrears of rent with 3.23% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	160	61.78
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	58	22.39
Richmond Outstation	13	5.02
Annotto Bay Outstation	12	4.63
Gayle Outstation	10	3.86
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	6	2.32
Total	259*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 216 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 259 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021. The largest proportion of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 160 or 61.78% of the sample. Courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse with 58 or 22.39% of the sample and the Richmond outstation with 13 or 5.02% of the sample rounds off the top 3 accommodations. The list is completed by the Annotto Bay outstation with 12 or 4.63%, Gayle outstation with 10 or 3.86% and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with 6 or 2.32%.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	153	59.07
Female	70	27.03
Registered Company	34	13.13
Trading AS	2	0.77
Total	259	100

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 259 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021 at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the largest proportion of plaintiffs with 153 or 59.07%, followed by females with 70 or 27.03%. Registered companies accounted for 34 or 13.13% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name ('trading as') with 0.77% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	157	60.62
Female	95	36.68
Registered Company	7	2.70
Total	259	100.0

There were 259 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021. The majority of defendants were males with 157 or 60.62%, followed by females with 95 or 36.68% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 7 or 2.70% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for first quarter ended March 31, 2021

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	106	69.74
Trial	33	21.71
Default Judgment Date	6	3.95
Part-Heard Date	6	3.95
Hearing of Application	1	0.66
Total	152	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 152 matters that went to court during the first ended March 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 106 or 69.74% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 33 or 21.71%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were the 6 or 3.95% each of the matters which were adjourned for default judgment dates and for part heard dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention hearing and that a notable proportion of the adjournments are for default judgments. The high frequency

of adjournments associated with default judgments is not unusual as this stage is intrinsic to case management and case preparation and to the overall case process flow.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	62	26.27
Consent	36	15.25
Settlement	14	5.93
withdrawal	8	3.39
Other	106	44.92
Sub-Total	226	95.76

NB: There were 236 matters disposed for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 236 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. Otherwise than the methods of disposition pooled under “other” dispositions, matters struck out with 62 or 26.27%, matters disposed by consent with 36 or 15.25% and settlements with 14 or 5.93% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Withdrawals with 3.39% of the sample round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for 95.76% of the total sample of matters disposed during the quarter.

Table 10: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	25	89.29
Settlement	2	7.14
Judgement in favour of Defendant	1	3.57
Total	28	100

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of 28 case outcomes in the first quarter of 2021 at the St. Mary Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 25 or 89.29% of the

sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements account for 7.14% of the sample and judgments on favour of defendants account for the remaining 3.57% of the sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
216	84	216	100	38.89

The above table shows 216 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, a total of 59 of these cases were disposed and 25 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 38.89%, an improvement of 5.04 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2020. An approximate gross figure of 179 cases were disposed, and 37 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 100%, which meets the international standard for this metric, but 22.56 percentage points lower than the first quarter of 2020.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 30.89%, a 2.16 improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2020. The estimated net clearance rate is 93.72%, an 18.43 percentage point decline when compared to the first quarter of 2020. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the

proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
39	4	89.74

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 39 trial dates were set in the first quarter of 2021 shows that 4 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 89.74%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 90% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment, an improvement of 31.41 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	173
Mean	211.9884
Std. Error of Mean	25.35199
Median	101.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	333.45335
Skewness	3.512
Std. Error of Skewness	.185
Range	2154.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	2157.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 173 civil cases disposed in the first quarter of 2021 at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 212 days or 7.1 months, which is roughly 57 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2020. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 333 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the high positive skewness of 3.512 days is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the quarter was 2157 days or roughly 6 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 3 days. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	274
Mean	375.5584
Std. Error of Mean	31.29240
Median	177.0000
Mode	114.00
Std. Deviation	517.98138
Skewness	2.901
Std. Error of Skewness	.147
Range	2773.00
Minimum	22.00
Maximum	2795.00

The above data is based on sample of 274 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 376 days (or roughly 13 months), while the

most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 114 days. The standard deviation of roughly 518 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores, while the relatively high positive skewness seen is an indication that there were decidedly more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 2795 days old or roughly 7.8 years, while the minimum time is 22 days. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

St. Thomas Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Thomas Parish Court.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	104	74.29
Disposed	24	17.14
Inactive	12	8.57
Total	140	100

The above table presents a status distribution of 140 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, 104 cases or 74.29% of these cases were still active, while 24 were disposed and 12 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 25.71%, which is a 2 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	98	62.82
Small Claim	58	37.18
Total	156	100

The above table shows that from the 156 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2021, the larger proportion of which 98 or 62.82% were big claims, while 58 or 37.18% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	33	75.00
Bailiff	11	25.00
Total	44	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the district constable accounted for the higher proportion with 33 or 75% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 11 or 25% accounted for the remaining proportion.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	59	38.31
Negligence	17	11.04
Recovery of Possession	16	10.39
Money Owing	9	5.84
Defamation of Character	8	5.19
Sub-total	109	70.78

Total sample size of causes of action= 154

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for the first quarter of 2021 at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 59 or roughly 38.31% of the sample. Negligence with 17 or 11.04% and recovery of possession with 16 or 10.39% of the sample round off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. Money owing with 9 or 5.84% and defamation of character with 8 or 5.19% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 70.78% of all the total sample of 154 causes of action.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (Main courthouse)	94	60.26
Yallahs Outstation	46	29.49
Courtroom #2 (Main courthouse)	16	10.26
Total	156	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 140 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 156 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 94 or 60.26% of the sample. The Yallahs outstation accounted for 46 or 29.49% and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 16 or 10.26% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	91	58.71
Female	61	39.35
Registered Company	3	1.94
Total	155	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 155 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021 at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 91 or 58.71%, followed by females with 61 or 39.35%. Registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 3 or 1.94% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	108	70.59
Female	43	28.10
Registered Company	1	0.65
Trading As	1	0.65
Total	153	100.00

There were 153 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 108 or 70.59% of the sample, followed by females with 43 or 28.10%. Individuals trading as a business (“Trading As”) and registered companies accounted for 0.65% each of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Date for Order	74	25.17
Mention Date	73	24.83
Trial	66	22.45
Default Judgment Date	42	14.29
Part-Heard Date	39	13.27
Total	294	100.00

The above table is computed based on a sample of 294 cases adjourned during the first quarter of 2021. The largest proportion, 74 or 25.17% were adjourned for an order to be handed down, followed by 73 or 24.83% which were adjourned for a mention date. Rounding off the top three

incidences of procedural adjournments were 66 or 22.45% of matters, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 42 or 14.29% and for a part heard date with 39 or 13.27% complete the list.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	44	20.09
Both Parties Absent	30	13.70
Placed on Trial List	23	10.50
Attorney Absent	11	5.02
Witness Absent	11	5.02
Sub-total	119	54.34

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 219

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 219 incidences of adjournments in the first quarter of 2021. Adjournments for the absence of defendants with 44 or 20.09% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 30 or 13.70% and adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 23 or 10.50% of the adjournments rounds off the top three. Adjournments due to the absence of attorneys and the absence of witnesses with 11 or 5.02% each of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 54.34% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	33	26.83
Consent	26	21.14
Oral Admission	25	20.33
Settlement	15	12.20
Default	10	8.13
Sub-total	109	88.62

NB: there were 123 matters were disposed in the first quarter of 2021

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 123 matters.

The list is led by matters struck out with 33 or 26.83% of the sample. Matters disposed by consent 26 or 21.14% and oral admissions with 25 or 20.33% rank next. Settlements with 15 or 12.20% and matters disposed by default judgments with 10 or 8.13% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 88.62% of the sample.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
140	36	170	121.43	25.71

The above table shows 140 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, a total of 24 cases were disposed and 12 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 25.71%, a decrease of 2 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2020. A gross figure of 117 cases were disposed, and 53 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021.

This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 121.43%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents an increase of 32.25 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 18.75%, an increase of 3.32 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2020. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 91.41%, a 19.98 percentage points increase when compared to the first quarter of 2020. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
45	0	100

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 45 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that none was adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter there was an estimated 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment, representing an increase of 25 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	85
Mean	307.6353
Std. Error of Mean	31.77927
Median	175.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	292.99036
Skewness	1.504
Std. Error of Skewness	.261
Range	1267.00
Minimum	21.00
Maximum	1288.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 85 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2021 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 308 days or 10.3 months, which is roughly 85 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2020. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. There is a standard deviation of roughly 293 days is an indication that there is some variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that there were more scores falling below the overall average time taken to dispose of the cases. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1288 days or roughly 3.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 21 days.

Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	421
Mean	684.3397
Std. Error of Mean	35.91986
Median	421.0000
Mode	2185.00
Std. Deviation	737.01389
Skewness	1.221
Std. Error of Skewness	.119
Range	2543.00
Minimum	13.00
Maximum	2556.00

The above data is based on sample of 421 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 684 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 2185 days or 6.1 years. The high standard deviation of roughly 737 days suggests that there is wide dispersion in the individual scores in the data set, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that most in the scores in the data set fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 2556 days or 7.1 years, while the youngest case was just 13 days.

St. Elizabeth Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Elizabeth Parish Court.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	331	87.57
Disposed	47	12.43
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	378	100

The above table presents a status distribution of 378 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, 331 cases or 87.57% of these cases were still active, while 47 were disposed and 0 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 12.43%, which is a 0.78 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	256	61.54
Small Claim	160	38.46
Total	416	100.00

The above table shows that from 416 new claims filed in the quarter, the larger proportion were big claims, which accounted for 256, or 61.54% of the total sample, while 160 or 38.46% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Goods Sold and Delivered	76	31.80
Monies Owing	56	23.43
Recovery of Possession	28	11.72
Rent Owing	14	5.86
Rent Owing and Recovery of Possession	13	5.44
Sub-total	187	78.24

Total sample size of causes of action= 239

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The data in the above table is computed using a sample of 239 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading cause of action for the first quarter of 2021 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court were goods sold and delivered with 76 or roughly 31.80% of the sample. Monies owing with 56 or 23.43% and recovery of possession with 28 or 11.72% of the sample rounds off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing with 14 or 5.86% of the sample and rent owing and recovery of possession with 13 or 5.44% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which is listed above, accounts for 78.24% of all the total sample of 239 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Santa Cruz Outstation (courtroom #1)	276	66.51
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	91	21.93
Balaclava Outstation (courtroom #1)	35	8.43
Santa Cruz Outstation (courtroom #2)	13	3.13
Total	415*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 378 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 415 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation, which accounted for 276 or 66.51% of the sample. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 91 or 21.93% while the Balaclava outstation (courtroom #1) accounted for 35 or 8.43% of the total. The Santa Cruz outstation (courthouse 1) with 13 or 3.13% rounds off the list.

Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of applications filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Order for Personal Service	400	100
Total	400	100

A sample of 400 applications filed during the first quarter of 2021 revealed that applications for order for personal service accounted for 100% of the applications filed in the quarter.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	209	50.36
Female	182	43.86
Registered Company	22	5.30
Trading As	2	0.48
Total	415	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 415 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 209 or 50.36% of the sample, followed by females with 182 or 43.86%. Registered companies accounted for the 22 or 5.30% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“Trading As”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 2 or 0.48% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	265	64.79
Female	137	33.50
Trading As	4	0.98
Registered Company	3	0.73
Total	409	100.00

There were 409 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2021. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 265 or 64.79% of the sample, followed by females with 137 or 33.50%. Individuals trading as businesses (“Trading As”) accounted for 0.98% of the sample and registered companies account for the remaining 0.73% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	222	54.55
Mention Date	111	27.27
Default Judgment Date	51	12.53
Part-Heard Date	14	3.44
Hearing of Application	8	1.97
Final Judgment Date	1	0.25
Total	407	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 407 matters that went to court during the first ended March 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a default, judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 222 or 54.55% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 111 or 27.27%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 51 or 12.53% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment dates, 14 or 3.44% which were adjourned for a part heard date, 1.97% which were adjourned for the hearing of an application date and 0.25% which were adjourned for a final judgment date.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placed on Trial List	162	39.71
Defendant Absent	66	16.18
Plaintiff Absent	32	7.84
Pending Settlement	25	6.13
Attorney Absent	22	5.39
Sub-total	307	75.25

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 408

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 408 incidences of adjournments heard in the first quarter of 2021. Adjournments due to placement on trial list with 162 or 39.71% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 66 or 16.18% and adjournments due to absence of plaintiffs with 32 or 7.84% rounds off the top three incidences in the sample. The list is completed by pending settlements with 25 or 6.13% of the sample and the absence of the attorneys with 5.39%.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment	50	18.32
Struck Out	48	17.58
Oral Admission	47	17.22
Settlement	41	15.02
Consent	38	13.92
Sub-total	224	82.05

NB: there were 273 matters were disposed in the first quarter of 2021

A total of 273 civil matters were disposed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 224 or 82.05% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by default judgements with 50 or 18.32% of the disposals, followed by matters struck out with 48 or 17.58% and disposals by oral admissions with 47 or 17.22%. Settlements and matters disposed by consent round off the top five methods with 15.02% and 13.92% respectively of the total dispositions.

Table 11: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	25	65.79
Settlement	13	34.21
Total	38	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the first quarter of 2021 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff account for 25 or 65.79% of the sample, while settlements account for the remaining 13 or 34.21%. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate net case disposal rate (%)
378	47	251	66.40	12.43

The above table shows 378 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the first quarter of 2021. At the end of the quarter, a total of 47 of these cases were disposed, leading to an estimated net case disposal rate of 12.43%, an increase of 0.78 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2021. A gross figure of 241 cases were disposed, and 10 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 66.40%, which is below the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net clearance rate is 63.76%, which is 3.76 percentage points above the rate recorded in the comparative first quarter of 2020. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate

and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
130	25	80.77

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 130 trial dates was set in the quarter of which 25 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 80.77%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 81% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and representing a decline of 11.17 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2021.

Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	206
Mean	184.2621
Std. Error of Mean	13.82768
Median	104.5000
Mode	56.00
Std. Deviation	198.46454
Skewness	1.855
Std. Error of Skewness	.169
Range	1025.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	1030.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 206 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2021 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 184 days or 6.1 months, which is roughly 62 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2020. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 56 days. There is a high standard deviation which is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores in the series. The positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately more scores falling below the overall average time taken to dispose of the cases. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1030 days or roughly 2.9 years old, while the minimum time taken was 5 days.

Table 14.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)	
Number of observations	1405
Mean	353.1445
Std. Error of Mean	6.65052
Median	329.0000
Mode	176.00
Std. Deviation	249.28352
Skewness	.612
Std. Error of Skewness	.065
Range	1138.00
Minimum	9.00
Maximum	1147.00

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 353 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 176 days. The standard deviation of roughly 249 days suggests that there is some dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that

there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 1147 days old or roughly 3.2 years, while the minimum time taken is 9 days.

Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	33
Mean	50.9091
Std. Error of Mean	3.50010
Median	56.0000
Mode	56.00
Std. Deviation	20.10653
Skewness	.300
Std. Error of Skewness	.409
Range	66.00
Minimum	20.00
Maximum	86.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 33 active reissued matters at the St. Thomas Court as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021. The average age of these matters at the end of the quarter was roughly 51 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 56 days. The modest standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, while the slight positive skewness indicates that proportionately more of the data points were clustered around the average. The highest age of active reissued cases in the sample set is 86 days and the lowest is 20 days.

Performance Summaries-Other Parish Courts

Table 1.0: Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Divisions of the St. James, Manchester and Clarendon Parish Courts for the first quarter of 2021

Parish Court	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Net Case Clearance Rate (%)	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Net Case Disposal Rate (%)	Trial Date certainty Rate (%)
Clarendon PC	88.51	48.51	55.32	20.43	74.55
St. James PC	-	89.31	-	11.32	-
Manchester PC	-	127.97	-	56.73	-

The summary of key performance metrics for the parish courts of Clarendon, Manchester and St. James shows that the civil division of the Clarendon Parish Court recorded an estimated gross case clearance rate of 88.51% in the first quarter of 2021, an increase of 7.04 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2021. This court also registered an estimated net clearance rate of 48.51% in the quarter and gross and net case disposal rates of 55.32% and 20.43% respectively. The Clarendon Parish Court also recorded a trial date certainty rate of 74.55% for the first quarter of 2021. The estimated net case clearance rate for the St. James Parish Court in the quarter was 89.31% and the estimated net disposal rate was 11.32%. The Manchester Parish Court (small and big claims combined) recorded an estimated net clearance rate of 127.97% for the quarter and an estimated net disposal rate of 56.73%.

Aggregate case activity summaries – all Parish Courts

Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)
4768	5575	116.93

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the first quarter of 2021. It shows that a total of 4768 new cases were filed over the quarter, while 5575 became inactive or were disposed, leading to an estimated gross clearance rate of 116.93%.

Table 2.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the first quarter (January-March) 2020 and 2021

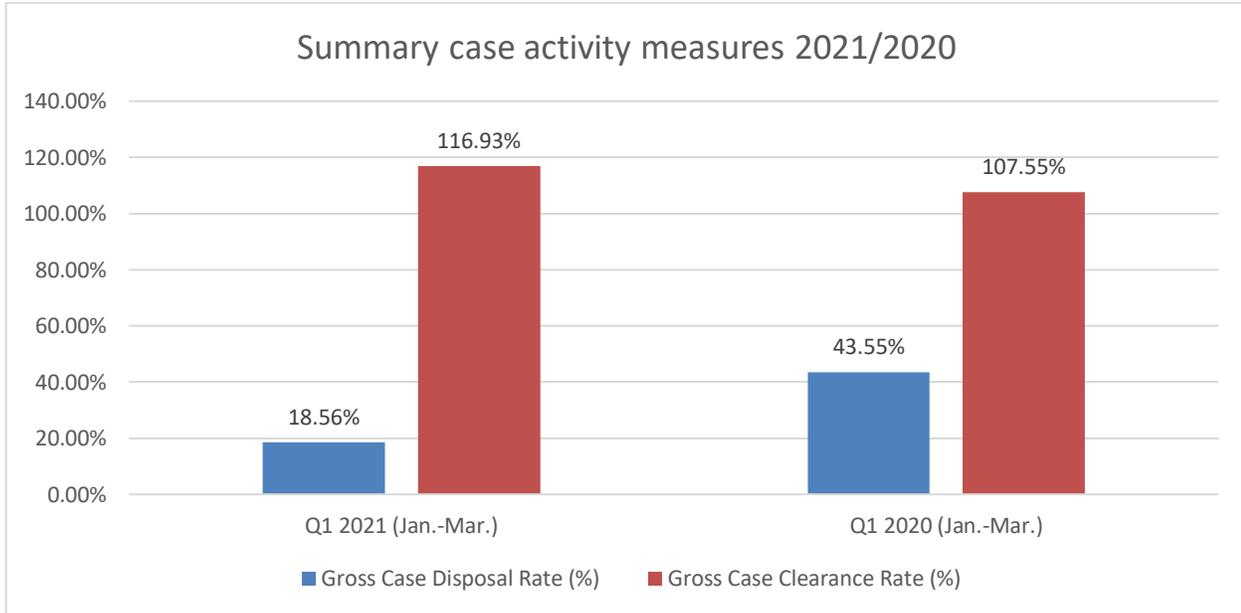
Parish Court	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1 2021	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1 2020	Change in the Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1 2021	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1 2020	Change in the Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)
St. Thomas	25.71	23.71	2	121.43	89.18	32.25
Corporate Area- Civil	-	72.32	-	142.94	192.30	-49.36
St. Elizabeth	-	11.65	-	66.40	60.00	6.4
Hanover	62.50	80.22	-17.72	272.50	136.26	136.24
Manchester	-	-	-	-	114.00	-
Portland	45.65	34.12	11.53	232.61	164.71	67.9
St. Ann	10.14	27.87	-17.73	127.12	113.94	13.18
St. Catherine	16.10	30.47	-14.37	100.36	59.41	40.95
St. Mary	38.89	33.85	5.04	100.00	122.56	-22.56
Trelawny	-	23.67	-	-	84.02	-
St. James	-	37.55	-	-	181.22	-
Clarendon	55.32	-	-	88.51	81.47	7.04

Westmoreland	58.72	55.06	3.66	185.32	-	-
Average /Weighted Average	18.56	43.55	-24.99	116.93	107.55	9.38
Standard Deviation	-0.34	21.29		0.99	44.90	
Skewness	19.95	1.01		66.51	0.43	

Note: Q1- Refers to quarter one (January to March of 2021 and 2020 respectively)

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate and case clearance rate for the first quarters of 2021 and 2020. The weighted average gross case disposal rate for the first quarter of 2021 was 18.56%, which was 24.99 percentage points decline below the 2020 weighted average rate of 43.55%. The gross case clearance rate of 116.93% for the first quarter of 2021 which was 9.38 percentage points above the 107.55% recorded in the first quarter 2020.

Chart 1.0: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for the first quarter of 2020 and 2021



The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal and case clearance and case congestion rate for first quarter of 2021 and 2020. It is seen that there has

been a worsening in the gross disposal rate, but an improvement in the gross case clearance rate over the comparative period. The gross case clearance rate moved from 107.55% in the first quarter of 2020 to 116.93% in the current 2021 first quarter. The disposal rate saw a decline over the comparative period, moving from 43.55% in the first quarter of 2020 to 18.56% in the current first quarter of 2021, a decrease of 24.99 percentage points.

Chart 2.0a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2020 and 2021

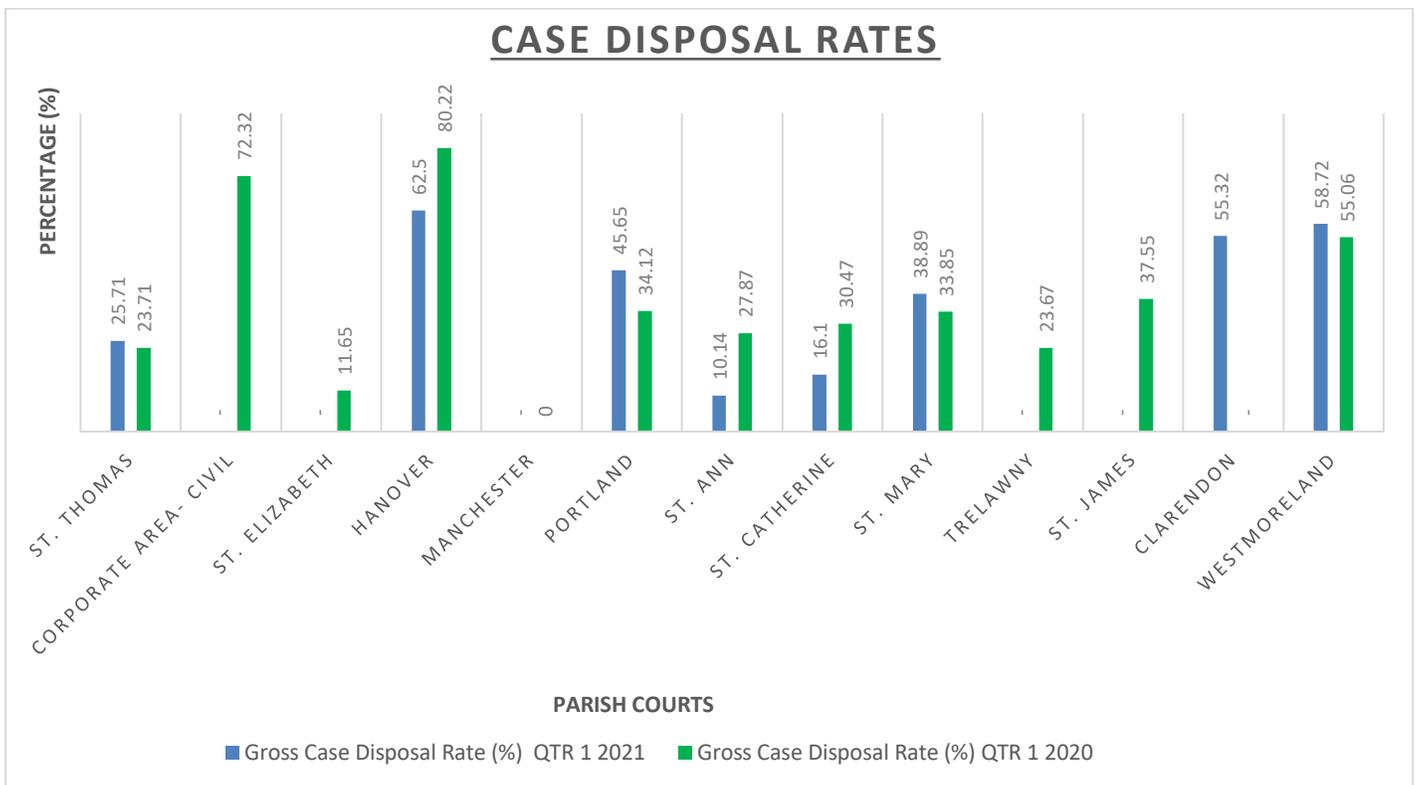


Chart 2.0b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for the first quarter of 2020 and 2021

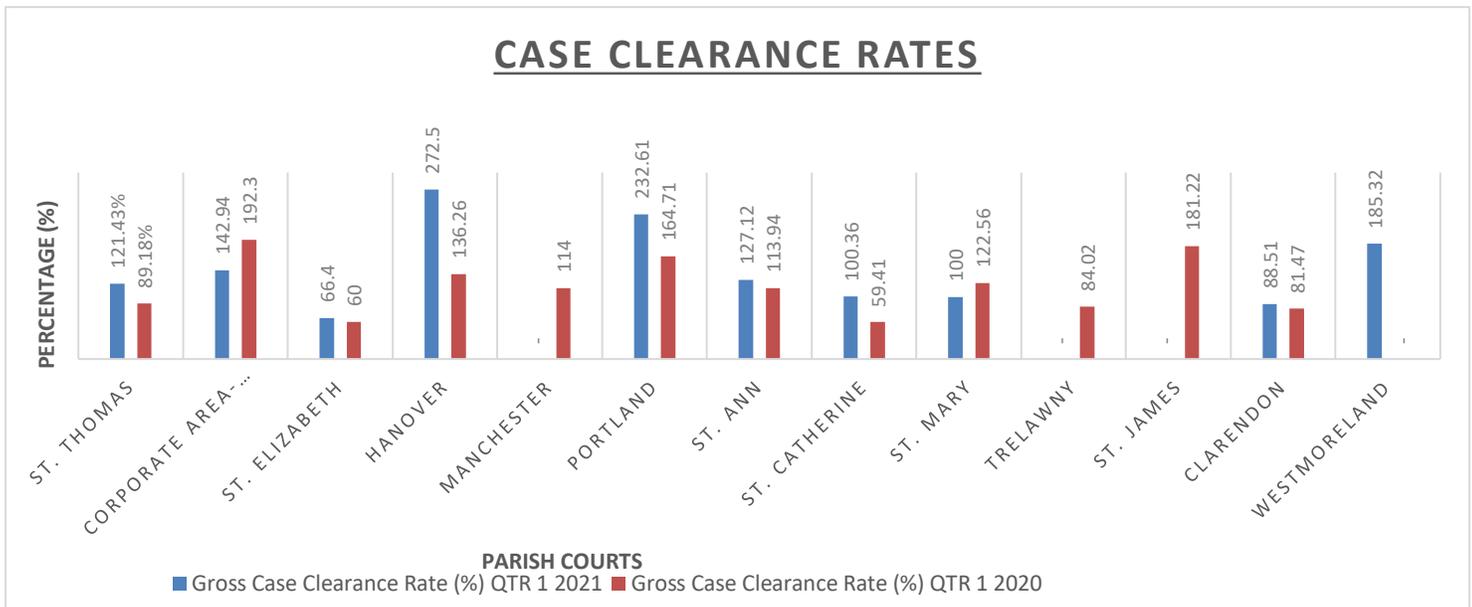


Table 3.0: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for the first quarters of 2020 and 2021

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) Q1 (2021)	Trial certainty rate (%) Q1 (2020)	Change in the Trial certainty Rate (%)
Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division	98.41	90.12	8.29
St. Elizabeth	80.77	91.94	-11.17
St. Thomas	100.00	75.00	25
Hanover	76.00	66.67	9.33
Portland	80.00	84.00	-4
St. Ann	100.00	80.85	19.15
St. Catherine	93.65	92.71	0.94
St. Mary	89.74	58.33	31.41
Trelawny	100.00	80.00	20
Westmoreland	95.00	90.48	4.52
Clarendon	74.55	-	-
St. James	-	90.91	-
Total/Average	86.83	85.38	1.45

Q1 represents the first quarter i.e. January-March

The trial date certainty rate provides a measure of the extent to which dates, which are set for trial, proceed on schedule without being delayed to start at some future date. The overall trial date certainty rate for the first quarter of 2021 was 86.83, a 1.45-percentage points increase when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2020. Six of the parish courts met the prescribed international performance standard of a rate between 92% and 100% in the quarter. Leading the way are the parish courts of Trelawny, St. Ann and St. Thomas with a trial certainty rate of 100% each. The St. Mary Parish Court fell just short of the international standard with a trial certainty rate of 89.74%, but this was still a promising result. The minimum-targeted court-wide trial date certainty rate, which has been set out by the Honourable Chief Justice for the judiciary for the next 5-6 years, is 95%. This is consistent with the push to significantly enhance the efficiency of the court system and hence the timely delivery of justice to the Jamaican citizenry. The attainment of this minimum threshold rate will depress the overall criminal case backlog in the Jamaican court system below 5%.

Table 4: Sampling distribution of claims filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Parish Court	Big Claims	Small Claims	POCA	Miscellaneous	Total
Corporate area	1044	274	-	-	1318
Hanover	32	7	2	-	41
Manchester	323	56			379
Portland	33	14	-	-	47
St. Ann	390	111	1	-	502
St. Catherine	890	111	2	-	1003
St. Elizabeth	256	160	-	-	416
St. Mary	189	70	-	-	259
St. Thomas	98	58	-	-	156
Trelawny	132	57	-	-	189
Westmoreland	104	30	-	-	134
St. James	335	138	4	-	477
Clarendon	187	48	-	-	235
Total	4013	1134	9	0	5156

The above table provides an overall summary of the claims files across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2021. The sample of 5156 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2021 reveals that 4013 or 77.83% were big claims while 21.99% were small claims and 0.17% were POCA matters. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division, the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. James Parish Court accounts for the largest share of new plaintiffs filed in the quarter. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division, the St. Catherine and St. Ann Parish Courts account for the largest share of big claims filed in the quarter while the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division, the St. James Parish Court and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court accounts for the largest shares of small claims filed.

Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 in the civil division of the parish courts in the first quarter of 2021

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
St. Ann	424	172362	25
Clarendon	235	245103	10
Corporate area	1318	662426	20
Hanover	40	69533	6
Manchester	379	189797	20
Portland	46	81744	6
St. Catherine	826	516218	16
St. Elizabeth	378	150205	25
St. James	477	183811	26
St. Mary	216	69533	31
St. Thomas	140	93902	15
Trelawny	180	75164	24
Westmoreland	109	144103	8
Total	4768	2697983	18

The above table provides an outline of the number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts (civil division) in the first quarter of 2021. The population sizes used are based on the last national population census in 2011 and therefore the data does not have full current value. Nevertheless, this kind of data provides interesting insights into the demand for the civil adjudication in the various parishes. It is observed that despite having one of the smallest civil caseload, the St. Mary Parish Court had the largest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population. This was followed by the St. James, St. Ann and St. Elizabeth Parish Courts. The parish courts of Hanover, Westmoreland and Portland had decidedly the lowest new caseload per 10,000 population in the first quarter of 2021. The number of civil cases per 10,000 population provides insights into the litigious nature of the citizenry, with a higher figure being generally indicative of greater litigiousness.

Table 6.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Parish Court	Average overall courtroom utilization rate (%)	Highest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Lowest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rate (%)	Average courtroom utilization rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average number of courtroom adjournments per day
St. Catherine	58.99	128.61	4.17	30.53	N/A	1.3
Westmoreland	80.22	260.00	1.67	41.27	N/A	0
Trelawny	51.33	153.67	2.33	32.47	N/A	1
St. Thomas	56.97	104.17	8.33	25.43	N/A	1
St. Mary	69.66	277.67	8.33	38.29	N/A	1
St. James	63.95	140.00	1.39	30.97	N/A	1.3
Corporate Area Court-Civil Division	68.40	129.17	6.39	26.55	N/A	1
St. Ann	85.54	137.50	9.17	31.05	N/A	1
Portland	51.39	118.00	0.00	29.04	N/A	1.2
Hanover	39.06	108.89	3.89	23.78	N/A	1
Clarendon	46.99	122.33	0.33	21.56	N/A	1
Manchester	61.65	122.00	4.00	29.20	N/A	1
St. Elizabeth	56.27	112.50	9.67	23.27	N/A	1
Overall Averages	60.80	147.27	4.59	29.49	N/A	0.98
Standard Deviation	12.96	55.70	3.44	5.70	N/A	0.32
Skewness	0.40	1.94	0.23	0.71	N/A	-2.69

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the first quarter of 2021. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtroom (including outstations) which are actually utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that

all hours allocated for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The data suggests that as a whole, the parish courts of Jamaica performed below this level in the first quarter of 2021. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the quarter was 60.80%, which is an indication that on average roughly 61% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2021. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the quarter are the St. Ann and Westmoreland Parish Courts with 85.54% and 80.22% respectively, followed by the St. Mary Parish Court with 69.66% and the Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division with 68.40%. The Hanover and Clarendon Parish Courts with 39.06% and 46.99% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the Trelawny Parish Court with 51.33% had the next lowest rate. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates was relatively low, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. This is affirmed by the low positive skewness of the data. Due to lockdown measures and daily curfew implemented by the Jamaican government to curb the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, none of the courts convened night court sittings for the first quarter of 2021.

The sample size of days used to compute the rates for each court were sufficiently large and representative, though not the same for all courts. The margin of error of the courtroom utilization rates is a reliable $\pm 2.5\%$.

Table 7.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	870	16.27
Placed on Trial List	756	14.14
No Return/Re-Issued	563	10.53
Both Parties Absent	441	8.25
Pending Settlement	302	5.65
Plaintiff Absent	179	3.35
Attorney Absent	116	2.17
Parties in Discussion	85	1.59
At Counsel's Request	75	1.40
Referred for other Mediation	71	1.33
Sub-total	3458	64.66

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance =5,348)

Note: DNA means that the accused 'did not appear'

**Referral to mediation encompasses referrals to Probation and to the Dispute Resolution Foundation*

The above table is derived using a sample of 5,348 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the first quarter of 2021 across all of the parish courts (civil division). The largest proportion (16.27%) was due to the absence of defendants. Adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 14.14% and adjournments for no return/ reissue with 10.53% rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 8.25% and pending settlements with 5.65%, round of the top five reasons for adjournment for the quarter. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 64.66% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 8.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 -547 days	548-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Civil	4191 (40.2%)	2087 (20%)	1064 (10.2%)	830 (8%)	862 (8.3%)	399 (3.8%)	997 (9.6%)	10430 (100%)
St. Catherine	1170 (34.9%)	761 (22.7)	415 (12.4%)	290 (8.7%)	306 (9.1%)	114 (3.4%)	292 (8.7%)	3348 (100%)
Manchester	35 (21.7%)	16 (9.9%)	22 (13.7%)	49 (30.4%)	24 (14.9%)	7 (4.3%)	8 (5%)	161 (100%)
Westmoreland	256 (66.8%)	66 (17.2%)	26 (6.8%)	30 (7.8%)	2 (0.5%)	3 (0.8%)	0 (0%)	383 (100%)
St. Ann	485 (36.8%)	275 (20.9%)	149 (11.3%)	131 (9.9%)	116 (8.8%)	46 (3.5%)	116 (8.8)	1318 (100%)
St. Thomas	406 (38.4%)	272 (25.7%)	114 (10.8%)	79 (7.5%)	68 (6.4%)	39 (3.7%)	79 (7.5%)	1057 (100%)
Portland	186 (34.4%)	93 (17.2%)	61 (11.3%)	39 (7.2%)	47 (8.7%)	44 (8.1%)	70 (13%)	540 (100%)
St. Mary	725 (50.4%)	252 (17.5%)	110 (7.6%)	67 (4.7%)	103 (7.2%)	38 (2.6%)	144 (10%)	1439 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	763 (53.2%)	385 (26.9%)	133 (9.3%)	65 (4.5%)	60 (4.2%)	16 (1.1%)	11 (0.8%)	1433 (100%)
Trelawny	530 (63.9%)	139 (16.8%)	61 (7.4%)	34 (4.1%)	39 (4.7%)	16 (1.9%)	10 (1.2%)	829 (100%)
Hanover	344 (60.7%)	98 (17.3%)	41 (7.2%)	22 (3.9%)	17 (3%)	12 (2.1%)	33 (5.8%)	567 (100)
% of Total	42.27	20.66	10.21	7.61	7.64	3.41	8.18	-
Average	826.45	404.00	199.64	148.73	149.45	66.73	160.00	1955.00
Standard Deviation	1158.82	595.22	306.79	238.38	250.57	114.43	290.58	2939.44
Skewness	2.90	2.68	2.68	2.80	2.75	2.92	2.84	2.86

Number of charges sampled (N) = 21505

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 39 months across the parish courts

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at March 31, 2021. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 39-month period. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 42.27% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. James and Westmoreland are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively 80.75% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six years. From the data set, the parish courts (civil division) of Corporate Area Parish Court, St. Catherine and St. Mary had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 8.18% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts-civil division of St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court and St. Mary also had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample are all relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

Table 8.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil	267.64	27	124	368.45	3.03	1	4254	10430
St. Catherine	277.82	28	140.5	381.62	2.94	1	3123	3348
Manchester	301.11	28	273	331.89	6.67	28	3652	161
Westmoreland	93.99	364	54	106.87	1.95	1	616	383
St. Ann	285.50	28	134	420.54	2.99	1	2611	1318
St. Thomas	232.09	28	119	308.36	2.91	1	2365	1057
Portland	393.41	28	154	634.95	3.61	3	4515	540
St. Mary	252.39	28	84	414.71	3.07	1	3220	1439
St. Elizabeth	122.34	28	78	136.92	2.76	1	1030	1433
Trelawny	119.84	28	63	157.92	2.85	1	1036	829
Hanover	163.80	28	63	310.73	5.75	1	3512	567
Total/Weighted Average	249.75	58.45	116.95	324.81	3.50	3.64	2721.27	1955.00
Standard Deviation	92.53	101.34	62.46	151.57	1.41	8.10	1331.92	2939.44
Skewness	0.02	3.32	1.61	0.35	1.66	3.28	-0.42	2.86

Number of charges sampled (N) = 21505

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 39 months across the parish courts

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at March 31, 2021. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 39-month period. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 250 days. The skewness

of these times to disposition is a low positive 0.02, suggesting that these times were generally clustered around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (94 days), Trelawny (120 days) and St. Elizabeth (122 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of Portland (393 days), Manchester (301 days) and St. Ann (286 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period of analysis. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is showed to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 92.53. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 3.64 days; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These results are both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 616 days (20.5 months/1.7 years) in the Westmoreland Parish Court, to a high of 4515 days (151 months/12.5 years) in the Portland Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a small negative 0.35, which is an indication that slightly more of the maximum times to disposition were above the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 21,505 matters.

Table 8.0c: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed in the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil Division	367.87	70	152	469.80	3.30	3	4254	617
St. Catherine	432.86	56	322	443.92	1.74	14	2115	349
Manchester	346.93	336	336	149.58	1.32	63	917	67
Westmoreland	215.20	303	184	162.03	1.26	3	793	314
St. Ann	486.74	737	350	504.87	1.82	18	2304	224
St. Thomas	307.64	63	175	292.99	1.50	21	1288	85
Portland	389.34	28	129	504.82	2.12	7	2520	71
St. Mary	211.99	28	101	333.45	3.51	3	2157	173
St. Elizabeth	184.26	56	104.50	198.46	1.86	5	1030	206
Trelawny	193.91	56	115	200.95	1.88	24	902	76
Hanover	147.40	28	42.50	266.81	3.77	7	1554	52
Total/Weighted Average	326.19	160.09	182.82	320.70	2.19	15.27	1803.09	203.09
Standard Deviation	114.12	220.59	105.74	138.86	0.90	17.58	1026.49	171.80
Skewness	0.24	2.15	0.69	0.23	0.94	2.29	1.38	1.53

Number of charges sampled (N) = 2234

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the quarter ended March 31, 2021. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 326 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a low positive 0.024, suggesting that these times were generally clustered around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Hanover (147 days), St. Elizabeth (184 days) and Trelawny (194 days) took

the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Ann (487 days), St. Catherine (433 days) and Portland (389 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period of analysis. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is showed to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 114.12. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 15.27 days; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These results are both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 793 days (26.4 months/2.2 years) in the Westmoreland Parish Court, to a high of 4254 days (142 months/11.8 years) in the Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 1.38, which is an indication that more of the maximum times to disposition were fell below the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 2,234 matters.

Table 8.0d: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Parish Court	Struck Out	Consent	Settlement	Default Judgment	Oral Admission	Withdrawal	Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	Other	Total
St. Catherine	147	142	70	57	11	24	4	50	505
Corporate Area Civil	235	149	74	116	78	43	66	98	859
Westmoreland	20	42	23	16	33	35	4	17	190
Manchester	73	-	9	-	-	1	-	16	99
St. Elizabeth	48	38	41	50	47	1	7	41	273
Trelawny	56	25	5	24	29	7	-	6	152
Hanover	4	13	6	19	26	2	-	8	78
Portland	7	13	8	8	11	12	9	19	87
St. Mary	62	36	14	5	-	8	3	108	236
St. Thomas	33	26	15	10	25	4	5	5	123
St. Ann	103	68	100	41	31	26	13	11	393
Total	788	552	365	346	291	163	111	379	2995
Percentage of total	26.31	18.43	12.19	11.55	9.72	5.44	3.71	12.65	100.00

Number of charges sampled (N): 2995

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts-civil division for the first quarter of 2021. From the sample, it is observed that the largest proportion of matters disposed of during the quarter were by being struck out with 26.31% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by consent with 18.43% and all other dispositions grouped under the category, “other” with 12.65%. Settlements with 12.19%, matters disposed by default judgments with 11.55%, and oral admissions with 9.72% rank next. Withdrawals with 5.44% and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 3.71% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter.

Table 9.0: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Parish Court	Net case backlog rate (%)	Gross case backlog rate (%)
Clarendon	12.66	18.03
Corporate area	1.47	15.31
Hanover	0.58	3.24
Manchester	3.36	17.91
Portland	2.69	10.55
St. Ann	3.22	19.55
St. Catherine	0.27	9.31
St. Elizabeth	0.84	8.07
St. James	1.91	11.28
St. Mary	0.14	8.74
St. Thomas	2.65	7.61
Trelawny	2.61	11.09
Westmoreland	1.25	8.04
Weighted Average	2.47	12.50
Standard Deviation	3.09	4.68

The net and gross case backlog rates provide one of the most decisive indicators of court performance as they are strongly influenced by most of the other critical court performance metrics such as the case clearance, case disposal, trial and hearing date certainty rates and are also directly correlated with the case congestion rate. The estimated gross case backlog rate provides a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are either active or inactive (i.e. are unresolved) and are over two years old at the date of reporting. The closely related estimated net case backlog rate is the proportion of all cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are still active and exceeding two years old at the time of reporting. The estimated net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which are unresolved. Based on international best practices an estimated gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The

results revealed are quite outstanding as using a 4.3 years' time series, the net case backlog rate (weighted average) in the criminal division of the parish courts is 2.47% (with a standard deviation of 3.09%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at a commendable 12.50% (with a standard deviation of 4.68%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is only 2.50 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10%, but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the criminal courts. Although the time series used for this computation is only 4.3 years' worth of cases, the sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of St. Mary with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.14% and St. Catherine with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.27% and the parish court of Hanover with 0.58% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of Clarendon (12.66%), Manchester (3.36%) and St. Ann (3.22%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (3.24%), St. Thomas (7.61%) and Westmoreland (8.04%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (19.55%), Clarendon (18.03%) and Manchester (17.91%) have the highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the Civil Division of the parish courts and augur well for future prospects.

Trial court activity summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Table 1.0a: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Parish Court	Average time between filing and first court appearance (in days)	Average time between first court appearance and trial (in days)	Average time between trial and disposition (in days)
Corporate Area-Civil Division	46.03	371.66	558.38
Hanover	35.93	187.83	228.00
Manchester-Small Claims	60.85	137.10	279.56
Portland	54.08	524.98	184.00
St. Ann	64.94	540.00	632.86
St. Catherine	89.24	364.76	225.13
St. Elizabeth	60.05	219.57	230.85
St. Mary	124.68	326.78	131.21
St. Thomas	44.56	246.13	586.89
Trelawny	70.03	218.84	233.00
Westmoreland	32.26	120.56	152.82
Weighted Average	64.11	344.01	367.11
Standard Deviation	26.33	143.31	184.96

Tracking the times between the occurrence of major hearing events along the case flow continuum is important to establishing precise points of possible delay in case progression. The above table provides a summary of the average times between filing a case and the first court appearance. The average time between first court appearance and the first date of trial and the average duration between the first trial date and disposition. Overall it is seen that the average time between filing a civil case and the first court appearance is just over 2 months while the overall average time between first appearance of a civil matter in the parish courts and the first trial date is however much longer at roughly 11 months or 344 days while the average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is even higher at roughly 12 months

or 367 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates which may at times face long delays after a first date set is postponed. Since less than a quarter of civil cases filed in the parish courts will proceed to trial, these findings may not have a dramatic impact on the overall time to disposition of civil cases.

Table 1.0b: Trial court activity summary during the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Parish Court	Number of cases heard	Number of cases with a trial date set	Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set	Number of cases for which only 1 trial date was set	Percentage of cases set for trial which only had 1 trial date (i.e. Only 1 trial date adjournment)
Hanover	189	56	29.63	41	21.69
Corporate Area -Civil	2698	463	17.16	389	14.42
Manchester	143	21	14.69	11	7.69
Portland	344	76	22.09	61	17.73
St. Ann	1332	211	15.84	130	9.76
St. Catherine	2392	419	17.52	314	13.13
St. Elizabeth	681	267	39.21	164	24.08
St. Mary	388	68	17.53	49	12.63
St. Thomas	327	112	34.25	64	19.57
Trelawny	465	49	10.54	34	7.31
Westmoreland	377	48	12.73	44	11.67
Total/Weighted Average	9336	1790	19.17	1301	13.94

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the first quarter of 2021 in the civil divisions of the parish courts. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 9336 civil cases heard across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2021, 1790 or 19.17% proceed to trial, 72.68% of which proceeded on the first trial date set, a result that is consistent with the generally good overall trial date certainty rates. The parish courts of Westmoreland (12.73%), Trelawny (10.54%) and Manchester (7.69%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial while

the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (39.21%), St. Thomas (34.25%) and Hanover (29.63%) had the highest proportion.

Table 1.0c: Sampling distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the quarter ended March 31, 2021

Methods of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	150	23.96
Final judgment	140	22.36
Consent judgment	75	11.98
Default judgment	71	11.34
Settlement	53	8.47
Withdrawal	47	7.51
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	25	3.99
Transferred	20	3.19
Oral Admission	19	3.04
Non-Suited	13	2.08
Application For Plaintiff Granted	4	0.64
Dismissal	4	0.64
Order	3	0.48
By Consent - Mediated Settlement	2	0.32
Total	626	100.00

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters struck out with 23.96% of the cases disposed, final judgments with 140 or 22.36% and disposals by consent judgment with 75 or 11.345 account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample.

Table 1.0d: Summary of case appearance frequency for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Parish Court	Average number of appearances per case	Standard Deviation of the number appearances per case	Skewness of the number of appearances per case	Maximum number of appearances per case	Minimum number of appearances per case
Corporate Area-Civil Division	3.40	3.90	2.97	37	1
Hanover	6.74	8.89	2.33	40	1
Manchester	3.00	2.55	2.06	16	1
Portland	4.63	3.30	1.20	21	1
St. Ann	4.83	6.08	3.14	40	1
St. Catherine	2.31	1.77	2.07	12	1
St. Elizabeth	3.53	2.95	1.94	19	1
St. Mary	4.07	3.72	1.93	20	1
St. Thomas	4.55	4.55	1.95	27	1
Trelawny	4.88	5.11	2.19	29	1
Westmoreland	3.01	2.70	1.67	17	1
Total/Weighted Average	3.63	-	-	-	-

The above table summarises the number of appearance per case leading towards disposition in the civil division of the parish courts for matters heard in the first quarter of 2021. The overall average number of appearances per 10 cases heard is 36, or roughly 4 appearances per case with a standard deviation of 1.23 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 0.74. Together, these results suggest that the average number of appearances per case is within the prescribed international standard, that a slightly larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of appearances and that there isn't on average a wide variation in the number of appearances across the courts. Among the parish courts with the highest number of appearances per cases for matters heard in the first quarter of 2021 are the Hanover, St. Ann and Trelawny

Parish Courts while St. Catherine, Westmoreland and Manchester were among the courts with the lowest case appearance incidence.

Table 1.0e: Summary of the average court appearance frequency for cases disposed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2021

Parish Court	Average number of appearances per case
Corporate Area-Civil Division	3.77
Hanover	2.85
Manchester	2.65
Portland	3.82
St. Ann	3.89
St. Catherine	1.84
St. Elizabeth	2.77
St. Mary	3.85
St. Thomas	3.36
Trelawny	4.38
Westmoreland	3.17
Weighted Average	3.26
Standard Deviation	0.73

The above summary specifically addresses the number of appearances per case for matters disposed in the first quarter of 2021. The overall average observed is roughly 33 appearances for every 10 cases disposed, not dissimilar to the findings from the previous table which provided a descriptive summary of appearances for all cases disposed. The St. Catherine, St. Elizabeth and Manchester Parish Courts were among those with the lowest incidence of appearance per disposed case in the quarter while the parish courts of Trelawny, St. Ann and St. Mary were among the locations with the highest incidence.

Table 10.0: Critical performance summaries for the civil division of the parish courts in the first quarter of 2021

Parish Court	Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of Disposed cases and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of quarter of origin)	Gross Disposal rate (%)	Gross Clearance rate (%)	Approximate trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
St. Thomas	140	36	170	25.71	121.43	100.00	10.3
Corporate Area-Civil	1318	0	1884	-	142.94	98.41	12.3
St. Elizabeth	378	47	251	-	66.40	80.77	6.1
Hanover	40	25	109	62.50	272.50	76.00	4.9
Manchester	379	215	485	-	-	-	11.6
Portland	46	21	107	45.65	232.61	80.00	13.0
St. Ann	424	43	539	10.14	127.12	100.00	16.2
St. Catherine	826	133	829	16.10	100.36	93.65	14.4
St. Mary	216	84	216	38.89	100.00	89.74	7.1
Trelawny	180	33	149	18.33	82.77	100.00	6.5
St. James	477	54	426	-	-	-	-
Clarendon	235	130	208	55.32	88.51	74.55	-
Westmoreland	109	64	202	58.72	185.32	95.00	5.0
Total/Weighted Average	4768	885	5575	18.56	116.93	86.83	11.1
Skewness	1.83	1.46	2.60	-0.34	0.99	-0.46	0.18
Standard Deviation	357.53	59.26	484.88	19.95	66.51	10.14	4.01

Conclusion

Despite the continued constraints on court activity posed by the broad societal effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the parish courts of Jamaica continue to make quantum strides in the clearance of cases and in reducing its case backlog. In the first quarter of 2021, the civil division of the parish courts registered an overall gross case clearance rate of 116.93% which is an increase of 9.38 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2020. This result means that the civil division of the parish courts were able to dispose roughly 9 more cases for every 100 new cases filed. Another crucial measure, that of the trial date certainty rate also improved, increasing by 1.45 percentage points to 86.83% when compared to the first quarter of 2020. Furthermore, the overall average time taken to resolve civil cases which last appeared in the first quarter of 2021 was 326 days or 10.87 months, slightly higher than the average of 10.40 months recorded in the first quarter of 2020. Given the consistently high case clearance rate in the civil division of the parish courts over the past five quarters, it is not surprising that the overall estimated gross case backlog rate at the end of the first quarter of 2021 stood at a promising 12.50% which means that only about 12.50% of active and inactive cases combined were over two years in age as of the end of the quarter. Even more impressive however is that only about 2.47% of active cases across the civil division of the parish courts were over two years old as of the end of the first quarter of 2021. These results augur well for the civil division of the parish courts which like the criminal division is well poised at this stage to make a profound contribution towards the fulfilment of the key quantitative targets set out in the strategic plan of the judiciary. The current trend would suggest that in the coming years the probability of a case entering the parish courts system being resolved within months will be much higher than in the past. The data

suggests that in the first quarter of 2021 only 8.18% of cases disposed were over two years old, that is, 91.82% of the cases resolved in the quarter did not fall into a backlog classification. Moreover, there is an estimated 80.75% chance that a civil case filed in the parish courts will be disposed within a year and an estimated 42.27% chance that such matters will be disposed within 90 days of filing. By any measure, these are encouraging results. Nearly all parish courts performed creditably in the first quarter of 2021, with parish courts such as Hanover, Portland and Westmoreland ranking among the very best performers. The next few years in the Jamaican court system will be exciting and interesting as the leadership of the judiciary makes a quantum push to create a more sustainable and efficient court system in which the public can be confident and on which key economic activities can be built.

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.

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%. A distinction is sometimes made between the gross and net case clearance rates. The simple difference is that the net rate completely excludes inactive cases from its computation while the gross rate does not.

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.¹

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%. A distinction is sometimes made between the gross and net case disposal rates. The simple difference is that the net rate completely excludes inactive cases from its computation while the gross rate does not.

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

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%.

Courtroom 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. The international standard for this rate is 100%.

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.

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%

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 a 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.

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.

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

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.

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 35th 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.

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 utilizes 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.

Source:

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

ⁱ *Source:*

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

