



Court Performance

Registry

The Registry of the Court functions, inter alia, to accept, transmit and take custody of all documents in Court matters. The staffing complement of the Registry is as follows:

- Registrar and Chief Marshal
- Deputy Registrar and Marshal
- Registry Supervisor
- Case Management Officers
- Court Support Officer
- Judicial Counsel
- Administrative Co-ordinator (Judicial)
- Administrative Officers (Judicial)

Over the period under review the Court held the following:

Court Sittings

Type of Sitting	Number of Sittings
Case Management Conference	6
Hearing	25
Judgment Delivery	14
Total	45

80% of the sittings were held virtually. Hybrid and in-person sittings accounted for 7% and 13% respectively.

Over the period under review the Court received the following filings:

Appellate Jurisdiction

New Matters

Type of Matter	2023/2024	2022/2023
Application for Special Leave	11	13
Appeal	15	12
Total	26	25

Cases Filed by Jurisdiction

Country	2023/2024	2022/2023
Barbados	9	8
Belize	6	8
Dominica	1	0
Guyana	6	8
Saint Lucia	4	1
Total	26	25



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Court Performance • Registry *(continued)*

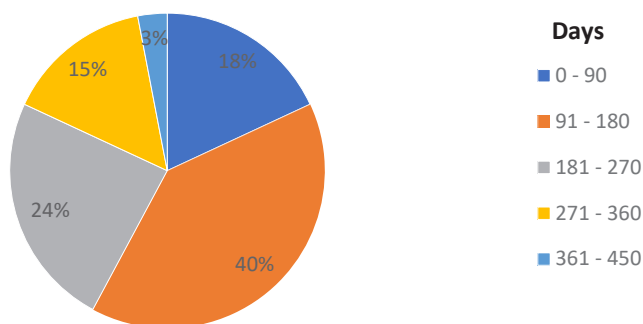
During the reporting period from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024, there was a 4% increase in new matters filed compared to the previous year. These included nine cases from Barbados, six from Belize, one from Dominica, six from Guyana, and four from Saint Lucia. The cases were evenly split between criminal and civil matters.

Time to Disposition

Time to Disposition		
Number of Days	Number of Cases Disposed	Cases Disposed (%) ¹
0 - 90	6	18
91 - 180	13	40
181 - 270	8	24
271 - 360	5	15
361 - 450	1	3
Total	33	100

Summary of Disposition		
Number of Days	Cumulative Number of Cases Disposed	Cumulative (%) ²
0 - 180	19	58
0 - 360	32	97
0 - 450	33	100

Time to Disposition



Approximately 58% of the matters were disposed of within six months of filing. The vast majority of matters (approximately 97%) were disposed of within one year of filing. Only one case fell outside of this period.

¹ Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.
² Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.



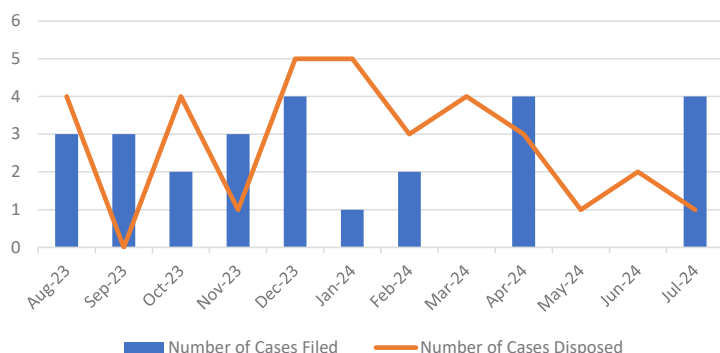
ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Court Performance • Registry (continued)

Clearance Rate

The clearance rate reflects a rate of 127% for disposed matters against new matters. The first half of the Court year, August 2023 to January 2024, was the busiest with the highest numbers of new filings and disposals.

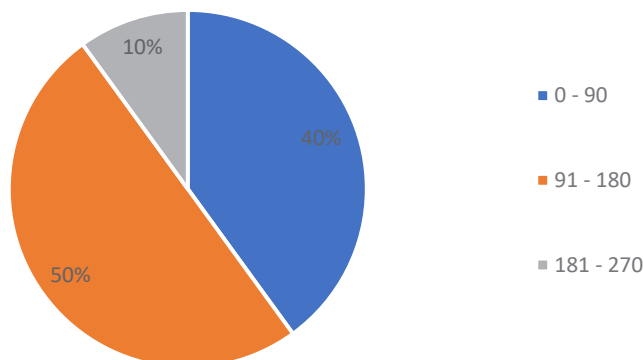
Clearance Rates



Age of Active Pending Caseload

Days	Number of Cases
0 - 90	4
91 - 180	5
181 - 270	1
271 - 360	0
361 - 450	0
Exceeding 450	0

Number of Cases



The clearance rate for disposed matters compared to new filings was 127%. The majority of new filings and case disposals occurred in the first half of the Court year (August 2023 to January 2024). By the end of the Court year, only 10 cases remained pending, all of which had been filed less than one year earlier.

Ramon Gaskin v Minister of Natural Resources and Others [2024] CCJ 14 (AJ) GY

The period under review saw the Court hearing novel matters in the Appellate Jurisdiction. One such matter was GYCV2023/005 *Ramon Gaskin v Minister of Natural Resources and Others*, an appeal from the Court of Appeal of Guyana. This matter was the Court's first foray into the Petroleum Act as it relates to the Environment and the Oil and Gas Industry. Mr Ramon Gaskin challenged the issuance of a Petroleum Production Licence (PPL) granted to ExxonMobil Guyana Ltd, CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Ltd and Hess Guyana Exploration Ltd, arguing that the



Court Performance • Registry *(continued)*

companies should have acquired separate environmental permits before the PPL was granted. The joint venture aimed to exploit petroleum from the Stabroek Block offshore Guyana. While ExxonMobil obtained an environmental permit as the sole operator, Gaskin sought to quash the PPL until the other companies also secured environmental permits. The High Court dismissed Gaskin's application but took 366 days to deliver judgment. The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the High Court, stating that the environmental permit was tied to the Liza 1 Project and that Exxon, as the operator, could comply with the environmental obligations.

The Hon Mr Justice Anderson delivered the judgment of the Court and held that the granting of environmental authorisation was a condition precedent to the granting of a PPL. Environmental authorisation must be given for the undertaking of a project and the Environmental Protection Agency must be convinced that a developer can fulfil their role and responsibilities and comply with the terms and conditions of the environmental permit. As sole operator, Exxon alone was able to comply with the obligations of the developer and was subject to extensive environmental obligations which were extended to Hess and CNOOC through joint and several liability. The grant of the PPL to CNOOC and Hess did not render the Licence invalid for four reasons (i) the Act's requirements were satisfied with Exxon being granted the environmental permit; (ii) the grant was consistent with oil and gas industry practice as Exxon the sole operator operated as representative of the joint venture; (iii) there was joint and several liability between the Companies for environmental harm; and (iv) there was no increased risk of harm to the environment under either the precautionary principle or the avoidance principle by the inclusion of Hess and CNOOC in the PPL. Anderson J concluded that there was no basis for finding that the Minister acted unlawfully.

Original Jurisdiction

New Matters

Country of Origin	2023/2024	2022/2023
Dominica	0	2
Trinidad and Tobago	1	0
Total	1	2

The Court's Original Jurisdiction function remains underutilised when compared to its Appellate Jurisdiction with only one new case being filed within the current reporting period.