

President of Welsh Tribunals Seventh Annual Report 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

August 2026



**Tribiwnlysoedd Cymru
Welsh Tribunals**

Llywydd / President

Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	The Office of President of Welsh Tribunals	5
3	Workload	6
4	Financial Overview	7
5	Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales (Membership) Act 2026	9
6	Tribunal Reform Programme	10
7	Judicial Training	12
8	Inclusion and Diversity	13
9	The Welsh Language	14
10	Accessibility and Engagement	15
11	Retirements and Appointments	16
12	Concluding Observations	17

Appendices

Appendix 1: Welsh Tribunals' Contact Details	19
Appendix 2: President of Welsh Tribunals' Priorities 2025-26	20
Appendix 3: Data Overview	21
Appendix 4: Summary of Inclusion and Diversity Data: Autumn 2025 Survey	23

Annexes: The Annual Reports of the Welsh Tribunals (including Case Statistics, Key Performance Indicators and Priorities for 2026-27)

Annex 1: The Annual Report of the Adjudication Panel for Wales	27
Annex 2: The Annual Report of the Agricultural Land Tribunal for Wales	35
Annex 3: The Annual Report of the Education Tribunal for Wales	41
Annex 4: The Annual Report of the Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales	58
Annex 5: The Annual Report of the Residential Property Tribunal Wales	70
Annex 6: The Annual Report of the Welsh Language Tribunal	85

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The President of Welsh Tribunals is established under section 60 of the Wales Act 2017 which imposes on the office holder an express obligation to represent the views of members of the Welsh Tribunals to the Welsh Ministers and to the Senedd. This is done in part by the production of an Annual Report presented to the First Minister and Presiding Officer of the Senedd. This is the Report for the financial year April 2025 to March 2026. It is the Seventh Annual Report produced by the President of Welsh Tribunals.
- 1.2 The relevant Welsh Tribunals operate in devolved areas in Wales and are set out in section 59 of the 2017 Act as amended. They are (with the acronyms I shall use in this Report):
- (a) Tribiwnlys Tir Amaethyddol Cymru/the Agricultural Land Tribunal for Wales (“ALTW”);
 - (b) Tribiwnlys Adolygu Iechyd Meddwl Cymru/the Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales (“MHRTW”);
 - (c) Tribiwnlys Eiddo Preswyl Cymru/the Residential Property Tribunal Wales (comprising three constituent tribunals: rent assessment committees constituted in accordance with Schedule 10 to the Rent Act 1977, a leasehold valuation tribunal and a residential property tribunal) (“RPTW”);
 - (d) Tribiwnlys Addysg Cymru/the Education Tribunal for Wales (which also manages the jurisdictions of tribunals relating to the registration of school inspectors and nursery education inspectors) (“ETW”);
 - (e) Panel Dyfarnu Cymru/the Adjudication Panel for Wales (“APW”); and
 - (f) Tribiwnlys y Gymraeg/the Welsh Language Tribunal (“WLT”).
- 1.3 Tribunal hearings are usually presided over by a panel of three Judicial Office Holders (“JOHs”). The composition of each panel varies slightly depending on the tribunal; but the roles within each tribunal are generally similar, as follows.

President/ Judicial Lead

The President/Judicial Lead has judicial responsibility for the Tribunal and its members.

Deputy President

The Deputy President supports the President and fulfils the duties of President if they are unable to carry out their duties, either temporarily or permanently.

Tribunal Judges

Tribunal Judges are qualified lawyers, who are responsible for managing proceedings at hearings, ensuring that proceedings are conducted fairly and according to the requirements of the relevant laws, and advising on any questions of law which may arise. The Tribunal Judge is also responsible for setting directions where necessary, and in consultation with other members of the Tribunal, for writing the reasons for the decision, and for signing the record of the decision.

Medical Members	Medical Members within Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales are consultant psychiatrists. They carry out an examination of the patient before the hearing, forming an opinion of the patient's mental condition. At the hearing, they are able to advise the other members of the Tribunal on any medical matters, and, together with the other members, will decide the outcome of the hearing.
Professional Members	The Professional Members within the Residential Property Tribunal Wales are surveyors and valuers. With the other members of the panel, they carry out a site visit before the hearing, which feeds into the Tribunal's proceedings, and bring a wide range of relevant knowledge and experience to decide the outcome of the hearing, together with the other members.
Specialist Members	Specialist Tribunal Members have a wide range of knowledge and experience relevant to the work of the Tribunal, which they bring to each hearing. They play a full part, contributing with their knowledge and experience of the topic being considered, and have an equal voice to that of the other Members (including Tribunal Judges) in the decision-making of the Tribunal.
Secretariat	The Secretariat acts as a point of contact for Tribunal Judges, Members and Tribunal Users and may also attend hearings to help with the efficient running of proceedings. The day-to-day administration is largely delegated to the Secretariat which deals with all the preliminary paperwork and the processing of applications to the Tribunal, together with sending the rulings and directions from Tribunal Judges to the Tribunal Users. Members of the Secretariat are not legally qualified.

- 1.4 With a view to making the information more accessible, consistent and transparent, this year, and going forward, I have decided to publish a combined Annual Report. This format combines my Annual Report as President of Welsh Tribunals with the individual reports of the six devolved Tribunals which can be found as Annexes to this Report.
- 1.5 As explained in my last (the Sixth) Annual Report, the following tribunals operate in Wales but are not included in section 59, and do not fall under my remit.
 - (a) Non-devolved tribunals which form part of the system of tribunals which operate across England & Wales reformed by the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, such as those which adjudicate upon social security benefits and child support, immigration and asylum, and employment. These are administered by His Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service ("HMCTS"), and their judiciary is headed by the Senior President of Tribunals. In this Report, I shall refer to them as "the HMCTS tribunals".

- (b) Tribunals which operate in devolved areas in Wales, but not under the President of Welsh Tribunals. For example, the Valuation Tribunal for Wales which has its own legal, judicial and administrative structures; and tribunals which determine school admission and exclusion appeals which are administered by local education authorities without any overarching structures.
- 1.6 The Welsh Tribunals are supported by the Welsh Tribunals Unit (“the WTU”), part of the Welsh Government public service, but operating as independently as it can practicably be, that independence being encouraged and supported by the Welsh Government. The WTU is comprised of the equivalent to 37 full-time members staff who are located across Wales.
- 1.7 Contact details for each Welsh Tribunal can be found in Appendix 1.

2 The Office of President of Welsh Tribunals

- 2.1 In my last Report, I set out the nature and role of the President of Welsh Tribunals, which it would be helpful to repeat here.
- 2.2 As I have indicated, the office of President of Welsh Tribunals was created by the Wales Act 2017, a UK statute. Although the role is restricted to devolved tribunals dealing with devolved subject matter, the post is expressly not a devolved Welsh authority for the purposes of the Government of Wales Act 2006.
- 2.3 The 2017 Act does not comprehensively define the powers and duties of the President; but it is implicit in section 60 that the President is the most senior judge within the Welsh Tribunals and, in addition to the duties expressly referred to in the Act, he or she exercises a supervisory role over each of those tribunals. In addition to tribunal-specific meetings, I meet the Judicial Leads of the Welsh Tribunals and the senior members of the WTU at least every quarter to discuss issues that cut across tribunal boundaries.
- 2.4 The express duties of the President prescribed by section 60 are limited to representing the views of members of the Welsh Tribunals to the Welsh Ministers and to other members of the Senedd as described above; and to maintaining appropriate arrangements for the training, guidance and welfare of members of the Welsh Tribunals within the resources made available by the Welsh Ministers. In pursuance of these powers, the President can (for example) issue Guidance Notes to tribunal members.
- 2.5 In exercising these wider supervisory powers, the President is also required by section 60(4) to have regard to the need for proceedings before Welsh Tribunals to be fair and handled quickly and efficiently; for members to be appropriately expert in the subject matter or law applied in their tribunals; and for the need “to develop innovative methods of resolving disputes that are of a type that may be brought before those tribunals”.
- 2.6 I also regard the role of the President in construing and thereby developing the law in the devolved areas to be important. The President does not have any express statutory power to sit – and, to date, has not sat – in any Welsh Tribunal, a position

which is likely to change as part of any tribunal reform programme. However, in the meantime, I have been appointed a Judge of the Administrative Appeals Chamber of the Upper Tribunal (an HMCTS tribunal) to hear appeals from the Welsh Tribunals. I dealt with several appeals in the 12 months covered by this Report, particularly from the ETW in respect of the developing jurisprudence in relation to the delivery of provision in response to Additional Learning Needs under the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018. Where appeals proceed further, if I have not sat on the first appeal, I am also able to sit in the Court of Appeal (Civil Division).

- 2.7 As President of Welsh Tribunals, I sit on a number of bodies which concern the wider justice system in Wales (such as the Judges' Council Committee on Wales chaired by the Lady Chief Justice, the Executive Board of the Law Council for Wales, the Welsh Advisory Committee of the Law Commission, and the Lord Chancellor's Standing Committee on the Welsh Language) and the tribunals systems across the UK (such as the Tribunal Judiciary Executive Board, the Administrative Justice Council and the Transparency and Openness Justice Board). These bodies meet regularly and enable me as President of Welsh Tribunals to keep up to date with developments in the wider justice system in Wales and the tribunals systems in all four home jurisdictions, and to influence those developments.
- 2.8 As in the previous year, I identified several areas that I considered warranted prioritisation in the year 2025-26 namely tribunal reform, judicial training, and inclusion and diversity. I attach the document I published at the beginning of the year in which I set out these priorities and the steps I proposed to take in pursuit of them (Appendix 2). I review these priority areas below (sections 6-8).

3 Workload

- 3.1 The number of applications received by Welsh Tribunals in the financial year 2025-26 are set out below, with figures for 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2024-25 for comparison purposes.

Table 1: Number of applications per tribunal

Tribunal	Financial Year 2021-22	Financial Year 2022-23	Financial Year 2023-24	Financial Year 2024-25	Financial Year 2025-26
APW	10	3	6	6	1
ALTW	20	28	17	13	14
ETW	151	90	108	134	182
MHRTW	1,840	1,747	1,798	1,825	1,869
RPTW	113	182	184	118	198
WLT	3	1	2	3	2

- 3.2 Further information about the nature of the work undertaken and its characteristics can be found in Appendix 3 and in the in the tribunal-specific reports annexed to this Report.

4 Financial Overview

Budget Allocations and Expenditure Financial Year 2025-26

- 4.1 The budget allocated to the Welsh Tribunals covers both judicial and administrative running costs. The total allocation for financial year 2025-26 was £6,379,000. Actual expenditure, however, exceeded these allocations, with total spending amounting to £6,481,092 exceeding the budget by £102,092.
- 4.2 The running costs and training costs of the individual Tribunals were as follows:

Tribunal	Total Tribunal Running Costs*	Proportion Attributed to Training*
APW	£75,500	£4,800
ALTW	£37,300	£4,000
ETW	£404,800	£32,200
MHRTW	£3,523,400	£85,700
RPTW	£443,600	£14,500
WLT	£52,900	£4,800
Total	£4,537,500	£146,000

*Rounded to the nearest £100.

The difference between the total Tribunal running costs in table 4.2 above and the total expenditure outlined in paragraph 4.1 can be attributed to the cost of the administration of the Tribunals and central support functions provided by Welsh Tribunals Unit staff.

2026-27 Budget Allocation

- 4.3 In financial year 2025-26, the Welsh Tribunals' budget was increased to align more accurately with actual expenditure. The recalibration of the budget, and closer working with the Welsh Government administration on matters of budget, are welcome developments. They enable more informed – and hence, better – financial management of our functions; and will greatly assist in the transformation that is proposed in the Tribunals Reform Programme (see below).
- 4.4 The budget allocation for financial year 2026-27 has been set at £6.616m. This comprises a base budget of £6.176m, with a further £400,000 allocated for work specifically related to the Mental Health Act implementation and £40,000 to fund additional workload related to Additional Learning Needs legislative changes.

The Need for IT Investment

- 4.5 I reported last year of the critical and urgent need to develop and implement a modern IT system for the Welsh Tribunals. The current infrastructure is increasingly outdated, and it lacks the functionality required to support efficient case management, digital hearings and data reporting. Indeed, it falls a long way

short. Some tribunals continue to operate without any effective computer system at all, but on a paper-based system of spreadsheets etc. The lack of proper case management systems means a lack of management data which, in turn, makes management (including financial management) more difficult.

- 4.6 Investment in a fit-for-purpose IT platform is essential to ensure that our tribunals can operate effectively, securely and in line with contemporary standards of digital justice delivery.
- 4.7 The Welsh Government has accepted this need and approved our bid for the necessary capital expenditure on a new case management system for all our tribunals. Funding was allocated during 2025-26 to develop and implement a new case management system for tribunals. Unfortunately, due to (amongst other things) stretched human resources, the updating of WTU IT services and systems happened in slower time than was desired, meaning that it was not possible to implement this during 2025-26.
- 4.8 However, the need for and ambition to update the IT infrastructure remains, and the funding for a case management system to service, not only the current Tribunals, but any Tribunals brought into the proposed reformed system (see below) has been carried over to the 2026-27 financial year, and the judicial and administrative teams of the WTU will be working together to progress with the aim to implement this in that financial year.
- 4.9 In the meantime, there have been improvements to systems via the transfer of data onto an updated case management system and the addition of enhanced functionality for the MHRTW.

Pay Rates

- 4.10 In 2025/26, the Welsh Government awarded a 4% pay increase for JOHs, which was in line with the Lord Chancellor's announcement for JOHs who sit in HMCTS courts and tribunals, effective from April 2025.
- 4.11 As I noted in my last report, the Welsh Tribunals are included in the Major Review of the Judicial Salary Structure, by the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) that is now well underway. The Welsh Tribunals and the Welsh Government are engaged in the review process through representation on the Advisory and Evidence Group. JOHs have had the opportunity to meet with the review team and provide oral evidence and written evidence has also been submitted to the review. The review is scheduled to publish its report in Spring 2027.

Continuing Disparities in Terms and Conditions

- 4.12 Despite the progress made in achieving pay rate parity, material disparities remain in the broader terms and conditions of service, between both JOHs in the Welsh Tribunals and those in HMCTS tribunals and to an extent in Welsh Tribunals inter se, which result in (e.g.) differentials in pay for preparation and writing up time.
- 4.13 These inconsistencies continue to give rise to concerns regarding equity and fairness, and are liable to have an adverse impact on morale and long-term workforce planning. Addressing these disparities remains a priority; and work on identifying disparities, and discussions on whether and how such disparities should be addressed, are ongoing. The Ministry of Justice is in the process of conducting an exercise on such disparities between HMCTS tribunals, in a long-running and sophisticated exercise, which we continue to view with interest.

Closing Observations

- 4.14 Performing the functions of the Welsh Tribunals within financial constraints will always be challenging. The Welsh Tribunals continue to exercise prudent financial management and remain committed to transparency and accountability.
- 4.14 The budget recalibration has improved our ability to manage our financial functions, but that management is made very challenging by a lack of a case management system and, so, relevant data. It is hoped that such a system will be in place by the end of the financial year 2026-27. That will be an important foundation stone for the proposed Tribunal Reform Programme, in which it is proposed that more responsibility for financial functions is transferred to the tribunals' judiciary.

5 Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales (Membership) Act 2026

- 5.1 The Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales (Membership) Act 2026 was introduced to the Senedd under emergency procedures on 13 January 2026, and came into force on 22 January 2026, changing the rules for medical membership of the MHRTW. This statute was not only vital to ensure the continued timely hearing of cases before the MHRTW involving issues of the continued detention of vulnerable applicants, but it illustrated the working of the three-limbs of government in Wales at its best.
- 5.2 The Act was necessary because a technical issue was identified shortly before Christmas 2025 in relation to the definition of “registered medical practitioner” in the Mental Health Act 1983 which meant that, contrary to both the qualifying criteria which had been applied by the appointing authorities and the position in England, medical members of the MHRTW were required to hold both General Medical Council registration and a licence to practise. This issue having been identified, the President of the MHRTW (Judge Jane McConnell) made the difficult, but inevitable, decision that medical members without a current licence to practise could not continue to sit on cases. The tribunal's ability to meet its statutory timeframes for hearings was consequently put at risk.
- 5.3 However, the potentially very serious consequences for vulnerable users of the Tribunal not being able to meet its statutory obligations were avoided.
- 5.4 First, the medical members with licences to practice made themselves available for additional hearings. I commend both them and WTU listing staff who ensured that panels were properly and timely constituted for their work and dedication over this challenging period.
- 5.5 Second, at the instigation of the Counsel General Julie James MS, Welsh Government officials and draftspersons worked over the Christmas holiday to produce a draft Bill to resolve the issue – by removing the sitting condition – so that the Bill could be presented to the Senedd on the first day following the Christmas and New Year break. The Bill passed all stages of the Senedd process, and received Royal Assent, within a week. I understand that this was the shortest period of time in which a Bill has ever been considered and passed by the Senedd.

- 5.6 This was a quite extraordinary collaborative effort involving Welsh Ministers, the Senedd and the Welsh Tribunals judiciary (notably, Judge McConnell). I thank all of those involved. It is a prime example of how the limbs of government in Wales can work together.

6 Tribunal Reform Programme

- 6.1 In past reports, I have made my views on the desirability, benefits and need for tribunal reform in Wales very clear. To enable the justice system in Wales to continue to deliver for the people of Wales, reform is essential.
- 6.2 A Tribunal Reform Programme has been developed by the Welsh Ministers, including through a White Paper issued in 2023. The proposals set out in the White Paper built on a solid foundation of earlier work including the recommendations of the [Commission on Justice in Wales](#) (“the Thomas Commission”) (2019) and the Law Commission’s [Devolved Tribunals in Wales Report](#) (2021). They were also informed by the experiences of other administrations following reforms which took place in the reserved tribunal system after the Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 and in the Scottish devolved tribunals through the Tribunals (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 6.3 The strategic objectives are:
- (a) to put in place a clearer, simpler, more effective and coherent tribunal system that is focused on access to justice and the needs of tribunal users;
 - (b) to lay a solid foundation for future changes to the justice system of Wales; and
 - (c) to protect judicial independence, including by giving greater structural independence to the administration of justice.
- 6.4 In line with these objectives, the main planks of the suggested reforms are as follows.
- (a) The creation of a unified tribunals system for devolved tribunals in Wales, comprising a first-tier tribunal (of which the current tribunals would form distinct chambers) and an Appeal Tribunal for Wales which would hear appeals from the first-tier tribunal. It is proposed to bring into that system the Valuation Tribunal for Wales and both school admission and exclusion appeals, although not necessarily immediately. The challenge is to create a unified, flexible and robust tribunal structure capable of absorbing not only the jurisdictions of existing devolved tribunals but also other judicial and appeal processes arising from future legislation and/or further devolution of the justice system.
 - (b) A statutory duty to uphold judicial independence applying to those with responsibility for the administration of justice as that applies to the reformed tribunal system in Wales, i.e. the relevant Ministers and, possibly, also the members of the Senedd.
 - (c) The enhancement and clarification of office and role of President of Welsh Tribunals by reference to specific statutory powers and duties such as that of presiding in the Appeal Tribunal for Wales hearings, overseeing complaints against tribunal members and determining complaints against senior tribunal

judiciary, and chairing the proposed Tribunal Procedure Committee for Wales (which would be responsible for the rules of all tribunals within the proposed reformed system).

- (d) Members will continue to be selected by way of a Judicial Appointment Commission exercise; but the formality of appointments will be simplified. The Lord Chancellor will have no role. Members will generally be formally appointed by the President of Welsh Tribunals, although senior judges will be appointed by the Welsh Ministers. The President of Welsh Tribunals will become a devolved appointment.
- (e) The structural separation of the operational and administrative functions of the new tribunal system from executive functions of the Welsh Government, by the creation of a Welsh Government Sponsored Body or a Non-Ministerial Department into which the functions of the WTU would be placed, with the Chair being either a Welsh Government appointment or the President of Welsh Tribunals ex officio (my view being that the latter would be the optimal arrangement).

- 6.5 This Annual Report covers the period April 2025 to March 2026, but I am writing retrospectively and following the Senedd elections on 7 May 2026. Whilst the report would normally be restricted to what happened in the year covered, so far as the Tribunal Reform Programme is concerned, this is an ongoing project and reference to the change of government in May 2026 is necessary to give my observations on the year in question their proper context.
- 6.6 The previous Welsh Government made clear its commitment to the Tribunal Reform Programme, and to the Bill that would enact it. However, to achieve everything set out in the 2023 White Paper will require a Bill of significant size and complexity; and, although drafting of the Bill moved forward at some pace, unfortunately, there was insufficient time to present the Bill before the Senedd Session terminated for the election.
- 6.7 Whilst I appreciate the challenges of limited parliamentary time, I was disappointed that the previous Welsh Government was unable to introduce the Bill bringing into effect these proposals. However, that was to an extent alleviated by an assurance from the Counsel General Julie James MS that work by public officials and draftspersons on the Bill would continue so that an advanced draft would be available to the new government. That work included extensive liaison with, and input from, me on behalf of the Judicial Leads and other Welsh JOHs. Again, I thank both the Counsel General and her officials for that opportunity.
- 6.8 I wish to move forward with this programme with positivity and purpose. Following the May 2026 election, I have had an initial meeting with the new Counsel General Elfyn Llwyd, who confirmed the new government's – and his personal – commitment to the Tribunal Reform Programme and the Bill to implement it. I therefore very much look forward to working with him and his officials to finalise the Bill for presentation to the Senedd as soon as it can, in practice, be presented.

7 Judicial Training

- 7.1 I have an overarching statutory responsibility for ensuring the effective training of all Welsh Tribunals' JOHs and each Tribunal President has accepted delegated responsibility for arranging training for their respective jurisdictions.
- 7.2 I am delighted that Judge Meleri Tudur, the President of the APW, has agreed to take up the role of Training Lead for the Welsh Tribunals, and I would like to thank her for her work on our training programme since she has started in this role.
- 7.3 Welsh Tribunals fall outside the scope of the Judicial College, which means that we have to deliver our own training, even where statutory provisions applying to our tribunals and their equivalent in England are currently similar or the same (which applies, for example, in the area of mental health review). That presents particular challenges.
- 7.4 Our devolved jurisdictions vary in size, workload and very much in content and scope. To meet the training challenges we face, we have explored ways in which we can deliver training to JOHs in diverse and novel ways. The ALTW and RPTW each delivered its annual training this year remotely on a video platform, and did so successfully. The WLT and APW identified overlapping training needs, which allowed a joint conference, offering both jurisdiction-specific and generic training across both jurisdictions. New statutory provisions for the ETW meant that the training needs of its JOHs required a two-day in person conference. MHRTW, the largest of the Tribunals, held its Annual Conference in the autumn followed by Spring Workshops for its members.
- 7.5 In addition to this whole tribunal training, there have been a raft of new appointments across multiple jurisdictions, both through the Judicial Appointments Commission and expressions of interest exercises. This has required the preparation and delivery of detailed induction training to all the successful candidates.
- 7.6 As I have indicated, the Welsh Tribunals fall outside the scope of the Judicial College. However, discussions with the College have explored the possibility of access to its facilities, such as the College's course materials and attendance at conferences for devolved JOHs as observers where appropriate. The discussions have focused on the significant amount of training which will be required for MHRTW and the RPTW, given new England & Wales legislation affecting each. The ability to work collaboratively with the Judicial College would ensure the avoidance of unnecessary duplication of work, whilst ensuring both quality provision and ease of access to relevant training for the devolved jurisdictions. I am obliged to the Judicial College for its willingness to engage with this enterprise whilst maintaining the restrictions to which it works.
- 7.7 Feedback from all training delivered is obtained, and has been overwhelmingly positive. We will continue to rely on that feedback to help in the identification of training needs and preferred delivery methods for the jurisdictions for the future.
- 7.8 Finally, congratulations to Judge McConnell on her recent appointment to the Tribunals International Training Committee. Her appointment makes clear our commitment to training, and will serve to raise awareness of ongoing international training and alert JOHs to appropriate training opportunities.

8 Inclusion and Diversity

- 8.1 A diversity data survey of our JOHs was carried out in Autumn 2025. The aim of this survey was to collect anonymised data on relevant characteristics across the Welsh Tribunals. This information supports my ongoing commitment to promoting diversity, inclusion, and transparency within the judiciary. In particular, it helps identify areas where further support or action may be needed.
- 8.2 The survey was distributed to 202 JOHs, with 116 responses received, representing a response rate of 57.4%.
- 8.3 A summary of the data collected is attached to this Report (Appendix 4).
- 8.4 The survey provides a clear and valuable snapshot of the current composition of the Welsh Tribunals judiciary, highlighting both strengths and areas for development. Most respondents have over 20 years of prior professional experience, and the age profile – centred in the mid-60s – reflects this depth of expertise. While this is a clear strength, it also points to the need for effective succession planning to ensure continuity as members retire.
- 8.5 Professional backgrounds are varied, with solicitors forming the largest group, alongside barristers, academics, and a majority from other fields such as healthcare, social work, and education. This diversity supports well-rounded decision-making. Socio-economic data shows a mixed picture, with most respondents educated in state schools and a significant proportion coming from families without higher education backgrounds, although there remains scope to widen access further.
- 8.6 The findings also underline the importance of language and identity within the tribunal system. Over 28% of respondents speak Welsh and of those, three-quarters feel confident conducting hearings in Welsh, reflecting meaningful bilingual capacity within the judiciary. These findings support the Tribunals' commitment to operating bilingually and reflect Wales's cultural and linguistic landscape.
- 8.7 In terms of diversity, gender representation is evenly balanced, and a notable proportion of respondents report a disability or neurodivergent condition, reinforcing the importance of inclusive and accessible practices. Whilst fewer than 1 in 5 represent an ethnic minority, the proportion is higher than the percentage recorded in the broader Welsh population. Additionally, nearly a quarter of respondents report unpaid caring responsibilities, highlighting the value of flexible working arrangements.
- 8.8 Overall, the findings demonstrate a highly experienced and committed judiciary, with growing diversity in some areas but clear opportunities to strengthen representation further and enhance accessibility. The accompanying recommendations focus on succession planning, Welsh language development, targeted outreach, and inclusive practices, ensuring that the Welsh Tribunals judiciary continues to evolve in a way that reflects the communities it serves.
- 8.9 The recommendations from the survey are set out in Appendix 4. Whilst there is no single aspect of inclusion or diversity that stands out as one which requires significant and urgent work, the survey shows that we must continue to work at ensuring that our JOHs are truly representative of those whom we serve. We shall continue to be vigilant.

9 The Welsh Language

- 9.1 I set out our legal obligations in respect of use of the Welsh language in our tribunals in my last Report. These remain unchanged.
- 9.2 The ALTW, ETW, MHRTW, RPTW and APW are all listed in Schedule 6 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and so are subject to the duties and standards set out in the Welsh Language Standards (No 4) Regulations 2016. The APW was included within Schedule 6 of the Measure by the Welsh Language Standards (No 1, No 2, No 4, No 6 and No 7) Regulations (Amendment) Regulations 2025 and received its Welsh Language Standards Compliance Notice on 18 March 2026. The Standards come into effect on 18 September 2026. APW judiciary and secretariat are preparing to ensure that all is in place to comply with the requirements by that date.
- 9.3 The tribunals which fall within the Measure are only required to comply with the Service Delivery Standards set out in Schedule 1 to the Regulations, the Policy Making Standards set out in Schedule 2 (the requirement to consider the impact of new policies on the Welsh Language), and the Record Keeping Standards set out in Schedule 4 (in the case of the Welsh Tribunals, the keeping of records of complaints relating to the Welsh Language). None is subject to the standards set out in the other Schedules, namely the Promotion Standards or the Operational Standards. Whilst the WLT and the President of Welsh Tribunals are not formally governed by the Measure or Regulations, acknowledging the spirit of the scheme, they each voluntarily comply with the same standards.
- 9.4 Over the past year, I have continued to prioritise the promotion of the use of the Welsh language. As part of this effort, we have reviewed our forms and conducted a survey to assess the Welsh language skills within the tribunal JOHs. This year, we aim to build on this progress, further embedding Welsh language use into our everyday operations and making it a standard practice.
- 9.5 Whilst each tribunal can provide both administrative services and hearings in the Welsh language, the use of the language in our tribunals is very small as can be seen from the table below.

Table 2: Hearings held in the Welsh language

Tribunal	Financial Year 2021-22	Financial Year 2022-23	Financial Year 2023-24	Financial Year 2024-25	Financial Year 2025-26
ALTW	0	0	0	0	0
MHRTW	3	3	9	8	2
RPTW	0	0	0	0	0
ETW	0	3	1	6	12
APW	0	0	0	0	1
WLT	0	2	2	1	1

- 9.6 As can be seen from this table, there has been a further increase in the use of the Welsh Language in the ETW. While there has been a general increase in case numbers in ETW, this may also be due to changes to the application forms, and also perhaps reflects the nature of some of the issues which arise in that tribunal. However, there has been a reduction in the number of hearings held in Welsh in MHRTW. The absolute number is of course small; but we are looking at whether this reduction reflects (e.g.) the increase in the proportion of cases which are heard remotely rather than face-to-face. We will continue to ensure that applicants are aware that fully Welsh-speaking panels can be constituted and have confidence in any translation facilities that are available for such hearings.
- 9.7 Over the past year, we have continued with the data-gathering exercise with a view to identify any barriers to Welsh speakers using the Welsh language in tribunal hearings. The responses to the question have been very few. Further, the answers provided appear to highlight a preference within this group to communicate in English for disparate reasons, including better fluency, confidence and comprehension in that language. Some are fluent Welsh speakers but find professional terminology easier in English, or find it easier to write in English. Others have partners who propose attending the hearing, but who are not proficient in Welsh. Several respondents say that they only have a basic understanding of Welsh, making English their preferred language for communication. The common theme appears to be that these applicants are more “comfortable” using the English language both in their dealings with the tribunal (in applications, correspondence etc) and in hearings. No specific barrier to the use of the Welsh language has been identified from the returns.
- 9.8 We will continue to collect and analyse the data obtained from this exercise. We will also continue to make clear that the option is not binary as between the English and Welsh languages; and that we are both ready and able to constitute a truly bilingual panel for any case, in which any participant may use the English or the Welsh language interchangeably at any point in the hearing. This, I hope, will encourage those who are not confident or highly proficient in the Welsh language, or whose vocabulary does not extend to technical terms, to choose to use the language insofar as they are capable and comfortable in doing so.

10 Accessibility and Engagement

- 10.1 I regard accessibility and engagement as fundamental to our proceedings.
- 10.2 The use of the Welsh language in our proceedings is not simply a matter of enabling applicants to exercise their embedded statutory right to use the language, it is also a question of accessibility to justice. An applicant should be able to engage with the tribunal process in the Welsh or English language that will enable them optimally to engage.
- 10.3 The tribunals are both able and happy to communicate with applicants and members of the public in the Welsh or English language.

- 10.4 Applicants and respondents can choose to engage with tribunal staff in either language. If a Welsh-speaker is not immediately available to take a phone call, then we will arrange for a Welsh-speaking member of staff to return the call. They are able to choose for the hearing to be conducted in Welsh, English or bilingually. If their first language is neither Welsh nor English, and they wish to speak in their first language during the hearing, then, subject to sufficient notice being given, we can arrange for an interpreter to be present. If a sign language interpreter is required to attend the hearing, we will arrange this.
- 10.5 Furthermore, if the applicants or respondents or anyone they are bringing to the hearing has any other access or engagement requirements, we encourage them to identify these so that we can accommodate them.

11 Retirements and Appointments

- 11.1 JOHs are appointed either by Welsh Ministers or the Lord Chancellor. The legislation and rules for each individual tribunal determine who is responsible for the appointment and re-appointment of each category of JOH.
- 11.2 All recruitment campaigns for Welsh Minister and Lord Chancellor appointments are carried out by way of open competition through the Judicial Appointments Commission or by way of an Expressions of Interest exercise open to the relevant section of current JOHs.
- 11.3 For each Welsh Tribunal the leavers and joiners over the 12-month period were as follows:

APW Edell Fitzpatrick resigned from her position as the Deputy President of the APW, to take up a new position as Chief Social Security Commissioner for Northern Ireland.

No additional members have been appointed during this reporting period but two selection exercises are in train.

ALT No new appointments were made during 2025-26.

ETW No new appointments were made during 2025-26, but a JAC competition for Legal Members is due to launch in 2026-27.

MHRTW

Following the retirement of Carolyn Kirby in April 2025, Judge Jane McConnell was appointed as President of MHRTW in October 2025 following a JAC competition. Judge McConnell maintains her role as President of ETW.

A number of members have retired this year including five Medical Members, two Legal Members and a Specialist Member.

A Lead Medical Member and a Lead Specialist Member were appointed in March 2025 following an Expressions of Interest exercise. There is an ongoing JAC recruitment campaign to appoint Medical Members with an expected outcome in mid-2026.

RPTW

The post of Deputy was the subject of a JAC competition, with an appointment made in October 2025.

WLT

A Specialist Member was appointed in July 2025 following a JAC competition. A further three Specialist Members were assigned from other Welsh Tribunals following an Expressions of Interest cross-assignment exercise in June 2025.

12 Concluding Observations

- 12.1 2025-26 was a challenging year for the Welsh Tribunals, in which there was a considerable change of senior judicial personnel in addition to pressures on administrative staff, and significant increases in some of our work, e.g. in ETW, with statutory changes meaning that further significant new workloads are imminent, e.g. in MHRTW and RPTW. However, we have been fortunate in our senior judicial recruits who are already making their mark in making their tribunals more effective and more efficient. Staff numbers have also increased so that we are closer to our budgeted numbers than we have been in the recent past. We were consequently in a better position at the end of the year than at the beginning.
- 12.2 The main disappointment of the year was the failure to present the Tribunal Reform Bill in the Senedd; but we continued to work towards bringing our tribunals together (of which this report is itself an example) and continuing to prepare for tribunal reform. I hope that the Bill will be presented in the first year of this new Senedd. We are ready for it.
- 12.3 I would like to thank the support we have received from the Welsh Government, and particularly Julie James MS who was Counsel General, and the Rt Hon Eluned Morgan MS who was the First Minister, for the whole of the period. In particular, the Counsel General's support was active and unstinting. I very much look forward to working with their successors in the new Senedd. As I have

indicated, I have already met the Counsel General, the Rt Hon Elfyn Llwyd, when we had helpful and constructive discussions; and I look forward to meeting First Minister the Rt Hon Rhun ap Iorwerth MS. We continue to have excellent engagement with Welsh Government officials, on both the ongoing business of our tribunals and the Reform Programme. We look forward to continuing to work with them over the next 12 months.

- 12.4 As ever, I also owe a debt to the tribunal JOHs, and particularly the Judicial Leads, and the administrative staff who man the individual tribunals with such dedication. In challenging times, they remain committed to ensuring that our part of the justice system works as well as it can for the people of Wales. I thank them for their skill and determination in that task.
- 12.5 In the last year, we have made progress towards improving the devolved justice system in Wales. I look forward to continued progress in the 12 months to come.



The Rt Hon Sir Gary Hickinbottom
President of Welsh Tribunals

Appendix 1: Welsh Tribunals' Contact Details

Tribunal	Address	Contact Information
APW	Adjudication Panel for Wales Welsh Tribunals Unit PO BOX 100 Llandrindod Wells LD1 9BW	 0300 025 9805  adjudication.panel@gov.wales  adjudicationpanel.gov.wales
ALTW	Agricultural Land Tribunal Wales Welsh Tribunals Unit PO BOX 100 Llandrindod Wells LD1 9BW	 0300 025 9809  agriculturallandtribunalwales@gov.wales  agriculturallandtribunal.gov.wales
ETW	Education Tribunal for Wales Welsh Tribunals Unit PO BOX 100 Llandrindod Wells LD1 9BW	 0300 025 9800  educationtribunal@gov.wales  educationtribunal.gov.wales
MHRTW	Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales PO BOX 1143 Cardiff CF11 1WX	 0300 025 5328  mhrt@gov.wales  mentalhealthreviewtribunal.gov.wales
RPTW	Residential Property Tribunal Wales Oak House Cleppa Park Newport NP10 8BD	 0300 025 2777  rpt@gov.wales  residentialpropertytribunal.gov.wales
WLT	Welsh Language Tribunal Oak House Cleppa Park Newport NP10 8BD	 0300 025 6702  tyg@gov.wales  welshlanguagetribunal.gov.wales

Appendix 2: President of Welsh Tribunals Priorities 2025-26

Ref	Activity	PWT/JL/ TL/WTU
Priority A – Tribunal Reform		
A1	Ongoing Engagement with Welsh Government (WG): Maintain regular engagement with and support of the WG Bill team to ensure alignment and progress on legislative reform.	PWT
A2	Pre-Legislative Action: Identify and advance priority areas that cannot wait for the implementation of any Tribunal Reform Bill, working closely with WG officials to implement interim solutions.	PWT/JL/ WTU
A3	Judicial Policy Alignment: Review judicial policies and guidance, including assessment of judicial policies and guidance in HMCTS tribunals to determine which can be adopted or adapted for use in the Welsh Tribunals pending the Bill's enactment.	PWT
A4	Resource and Process Review: Processes in the light of current resources to improve effectiveness and efficiency and ensure alignment with budget.	PWT/WTU
Priority B – Judicial Training		
B1	Review of Delivery of Training: Review of how training meeting needs might be delivered with a view to ensuring that JOHs are appropriately trained for their posts and the training given is best value for money.	PWT/JL/ WTU
B2	Digital Competency Development: Explore and implement additional training opportunities for the judiciary, with a particular focus on enhancing digital skills and technological proficiency.	PWT/JL/ WTU
Priority C – Inclusion and Diversity		
C1	Data Collection and Analysis: Complete delivery on the commitment to gather anonymised data on the composition of Welsh Tribunals' JOHs (JOHs), focusing on characteristics such as gender, racial background, professional expertise, and social background; and identifying and addressing any concerns to which those data give rise.	PWT/WTU

PWT – President of Welsh Tribunals

JL – Judicial Leads

WTU – Welsh Tribunals Unit

Appendix 3: Data Overview

Case Statistics Overview

Tribunal	All Applications	Hearings Held In Person	Hearings Held Virtually	Hybrid Hearings	Hearings held in Welsh	Cases Closed
APW	1	1	4	4	1	5
ALTW	14	0	4	0	0	28
ETW	182	2	155	0	12	162
MHRTW	1,869	379	769	15	2	1,741
RPTW	198	6	85	0	2	132
WLT	2	1	0	0	1	2
Total	2,266	389	1,017	19	18	2,070

Language Preference

Tribunal	All Applications	Welsh spoken by the applicant	Written Language Preference *	Verbal Language Preference *	Hearing Language Preference *	Comments received outlining why Welsh speakers have chosen not to use Welsh to interact with the Tribunal
APW	1	0	0	0	0	N/A
ALTW	14	2	1	1	2	0
ETW	182	7	2	3	2	21
MHRTW	1,869	13	11	13	11	0
RPTW	198	0	0	0	0	0
WLT	2	2	2	2	2	0
Total	2,266	24	16	19	17	21

*Welsh or Both (Welsh and English) indicated as the language preference for interaction with the Tribunal.

Requests for Permission to Appeal to the Upper Tribunal/High Court

Tribunal	Requests Received	Granted	Refused	Further Appealed to UT/HC
APW	0	0	0	0
ALTW	1	0	0	1
ETW	17	0	6	3
MHRTW	2	1	1	0
RPTW	5	0	4	1
WLT	0	0	0	0
Total	25	1	11	5

Complaints Received

Tribunal	Regarding Administration	Regarding Tribunal Processes	Regarding Tribunal Members	By Tribunal Members
APW	0	0	0	0
ALTW	0	0	0	0
ETW	2	0	1	0
MHRTW	0	0	0	0
RPTW	2	2	0	0
WLT	2	2	0	0
Total	6	4	1	0

Appendix 4: Summary of Diversity Data

Key Findings

Age Group

- 110 respondents answered the age question.
- Age range spans from **25 to 74**, with a **median age around 63–65**.

Languages Spoken

- **100%** speak English.
- **28%** speak Welsh and of those **75%** would be comfortable conducting a tribunal hearing in Welsh.
- **22%** reported other languages including French, German, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish, and Hebrew.

Professional Background

- **Solicitors:** 27%
- **Barristers:** 9%
- **Academics:** 6%
- **Other:** (56%) – includes medical professionals, social workers, nurses, and educators.

Professional Experience

- **70%** of respondents had over 20 years of experience prior to their appointment.

Socio-Economic Background

- **68%** attended state-run schools.
- **10%** were eligible for free school meals.
- **38%** had parents with degree-level qualifications; 30% had parents with no qualifications.

National Identity

- **Welsh:** 45%
- **British:** 43%
- **English:** 21%
- **Scottish:** 4%
- **Other:** 11%

Ethnicity

- **White (Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British): 82%**
- **Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Chinese): 9%**
- **Mixed ethnic backgrounds: 4%**
- **Black (Black Welsh/Black British/Caribbean/African): 2%**

Religion

- **Christian: 50%**
- **No religion: 38%**
- Others include Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Pagan, and Baha'i.

Sex and Gender

- **50% Female, 50% Male.**
- **99% identify with the same gender as registered at birth.**

Sexual Orientation

- **90% Straight/Heterosexual.**
- **8% Gay or Lesbian.**
- **2% Bisexual or Other.**

Disability

- **26% reported a long-term mental or physical health condition, neurodivergence, a first-language BSL user, or another impairment.**

Geographic Origin

- **47% grew up in Wales.**
- **50% grew up in other parts of the UK.**
- **3% grew up outside the UK.**

Unpaid Caring Responsibilities

- **24% provide some level of unpaid care.**
- **Most common: 9 hours/week or less.**

Recommendations

1. Age Diversity and Succession Planning

- **Recommendation:** Develop mentoring and knowledge transfer programmes to support younger or newly appointed JOHs.
 - **Why:** The majority of respondents are aged 60+ , indicating a need to prepare for future retirements and maintain institutional knowledge.
-

2. Language and Welsh Language Capability

- **Recommendation:** Expand Welsh language training and support for JOHs.
 - **Why:** While 28% speak Welsh, only 33 responded to the question about conducting hearings in Welsh. Increasing confidence and capability could improve accessibility and uphold bilingual commitments.
-

3. Socio-Economic Mobility

- **Recommendation:** Promote outreach and awareness of judicial roles in communities with lower socio-economic representation.
 - Find out what outreach is done by JAC for recruitment campaigns and can this be improved.
 - **Why:** Only 10% were eligible for free school meals, and 30% had parents with no qualifications – suggesting room to improve socio-economic diversity.
-

4. Ethnic and Cultural Representation

- **Recommendation:** Strengthen targeted recruitment and support for underrepresented ethnic groups.
 - As above, outreach via JAC.
 - **Why:** 82% identified as White British, with limited representation from Asian, Black, and mixed backgrounds.
-

5. Disability and Neurodiversity Inclusion

- **Recommendation:** Enhance accessibility measures and neurodiversity awareness training across tribunals.
 - Ensure any venues used for hearings and training are fully accessible.
 - Provide neurodiversity training to JOHs.
 - **Why:** 26% reported a long-term condition or neurodivergence, with varied needs including hearing aids, ADHD, autism, and mobility issues.
-

6. Caring Responsibilities

- **Recommendation:** Consider flexible working arrangements or support mechanisms for JOHs with caring duties.
 - **Why:** Nearly 25% provide unpaid care, with some doing so for 50+ hours per week.
-

7. Data Transparency and Engagement

- **Recommendation:** Share anonymised survey findings with JOHs and stakeholders to foster transparency and encourage future participation.
- **Why:** Promotes trust and demonstrates that feedback leads to action.

The Annual Report for the Adjudication Panel for Wales

Judge Meleri Tudur, President of the Adjudication Panel for Wales

Introduction

1. This is my second Annual Report as President of the APW.
2. The Tribunal's aim continues to be to serve the public interest by dealing with cases both efficiently and effectively. Every effort is made to ensure that all those involved in the dispute feel that they have had a fair hearing and that the case has been fairly resolved as efficiently as is reasonable to ensure justice. The public must have confidence that any breaches of the Code of Conduct will be dealt with fairly in order to uphold trust and confidence in local democracy.
3. Since my last report, the Deputy President, Edell Fitzpatrick has moved on and was appointed Chief Social Security Commissioner and Chief Child Support Commissioner for Northern Ireland in 2025. We wish her well in her new role and thank her for her contribution to the Tribunal and her departure left a significant gap. It emphasised the need for the Tribunal to build greater resilience and appoint additional JOHs to ensure robustness and delivery of the promise of efficient disposal of cases.
4. This has been addressed by two recruitment exercises, one through a Judicial Appointments Commission competition for fee paid judges and the other through an Expression of Interest exercise across the devolved jurisdictions for lay members. The selection processes are now complete subject to the delivery of induction training for the new appointees.
5. The implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 (Amendment of Schedule 6) Order 2025 in March 2025 has, at last, brought the Tribunal in line with the other devolved jurisdictions in Wales, by making it subject to the requirement to comply with certain Welsh language standards. I am pleased to confirm that the Tribunal's commitment to the Welsh language will now be recognised and work with the Welsh Language Commissioner's office is under way to ensure full implementation of the requirements.
6. During the year, in anticipation that there would be progress on the implementation of the Welsh Tribunals' Reform Programme, the Judicial Leads of the devolved tribunals, under the leadership of the President of Welsh Tribunals, have worked closely together to seek to introduce, where practical and feasible, a level of consistency of practice across the jurisdictions to prepare the ground for tribunals reform when it arrives and to ensure best practice in all the tribunals' work. This has enabled stronger working links across the jurisdictions and greater conformity, where appropriate, in the application of common policy approaches.

7. In my previous report, I expressed my commitment to judicial training and I was pleased to accept the President of Welsh Tribunals' offer of a role as the Judicial Training lead. For APW, it was a great pleasure this year to work with the Welsh Language Tribunal's JOHs to participate in joint training on both judicial skills and jurisdiction specific matters in Caernarfon.
8. The jurisdiction's work has remained at a consistent level. The small number of cases and appeals makes it difficult to draw themes and threads from the cases brought to the Tribunal.
9. Priorities for the coming year will be the effective induction of new JOHs into the jurisdiction to build resilience and ensure that there is capacity to deal with all the cases in the jurisdiction in the users' language of choice; continued work to pave the way for tribunal reform in Wales with preparation work to shape the future of all the devolved jurisdictions.
10. Following the publication of the [Administrative Justice Council's Report on Digitalisation in Tribunals](#), and in the light of the new case management system for which funding has now been obtained, it will also be a priority to seek better case management facilities for the jurisdiction.
11. Any questions or comments arising as to any aspect of the workings of the Tribunal, or the contents of the Report, are most welcome and should in the first instance be addressed to the Registrar.

Tribunal Overview

Legal Basis

12. The APW is an independent tribunal that determines alleged breaches against an authority's statutory Code of Conduct by elected and co-opted members of Welsh county, county borough and community councils, fire and national park authorities. The APW was established under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000.

Function

13. The Code of Conduct for an authority provides its members with a set of standards expected of them in public life. The Code of Conduct covers various requirements as to how members should conduct themselves and includes requirements in relation to equality, personal and prejudicial interests, confidential information, their authority's resources and the need to avoid bringing their office or authority into disrepute.
14. The APW has two statutory functions in relation to breaches of the Code of Conduct:
 - to form case or interim case tribunals ("Case Tribunals") to consider references from the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales ("the PSOW"), following the investigation of allegations that a member has failed to comply with their authority's Code of Conduct; and
 - to consider appeals from members against the decisions of local authority standards committees that they have breached the Code of Conduct ("Appeal Tribunals").

Rules

15. The APW operates in accordance with its procedural regulations and other associated legislation. The regulations ensure that all cases heard by the APW are treated fairly, consistently, promptly and justly. They ensure that everyone who comes before the APW clearly understands the steps they must take so that the facts of the dispute and the relevant arguments can be presented effectively to the APW. They also ensure that every party to a case understands the arguments of the other party and can respond to them. APW's procedures are governed by the following legislation:
 - The Local Government Act 2000 (as amended);
 - The Adjudications by Case Tribunals and Interim Case Tribunals (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended); and
 - The Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended)).

Process

16. Anyone wishing to respond to a reference from the PSOW or to make an application for permission to appeal to the APW must complete and send the relevant form to the APW.
17. At an APW hearing, the panel is usually composed of a legally qualified chairperson and 2 lay members. APW hearings are normally held in public and take place near to the authority area.
18. The APW publishes its decisions on its website. Decisions of Case Tribunals can be appealed on limited grounds to the High Court. Permission to appeal to the High Court must first be sought from the High Court.
19. Full information and guidance about the Tribunal, its procedures and decisions, are provided on its website: www.adjudicationpanel.gov.wales/guidance-and-forms

Tribunal Structure



Business Priorities for 2026-27

20. It is important that the APW continues to develop in order to deliver the best possible service for our customers. This section is about how the APW will build on its achievements through focusing on business priorities and our commitment to our users.
21. Our priorities over the next year are as follows:
 - Ensure timely and effective implementation of the provisions of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 (Amendment of Schedule 6) Order 2025.
 - Continue to deliver an effective and efficient service, meeting key performance indicators.
 - Build the Tribunal's resilience by appointing and authorising additional JOHs.
 - Provide effective training to all JOHs and induction to the new JOHs.
 - Continue with preparation work ahead of Tribunal Reform Programme.
 - Improve case management facilities for the Tribunal.

Adjudication Panel for Wales

Case Statistics and Key Performance Indicators

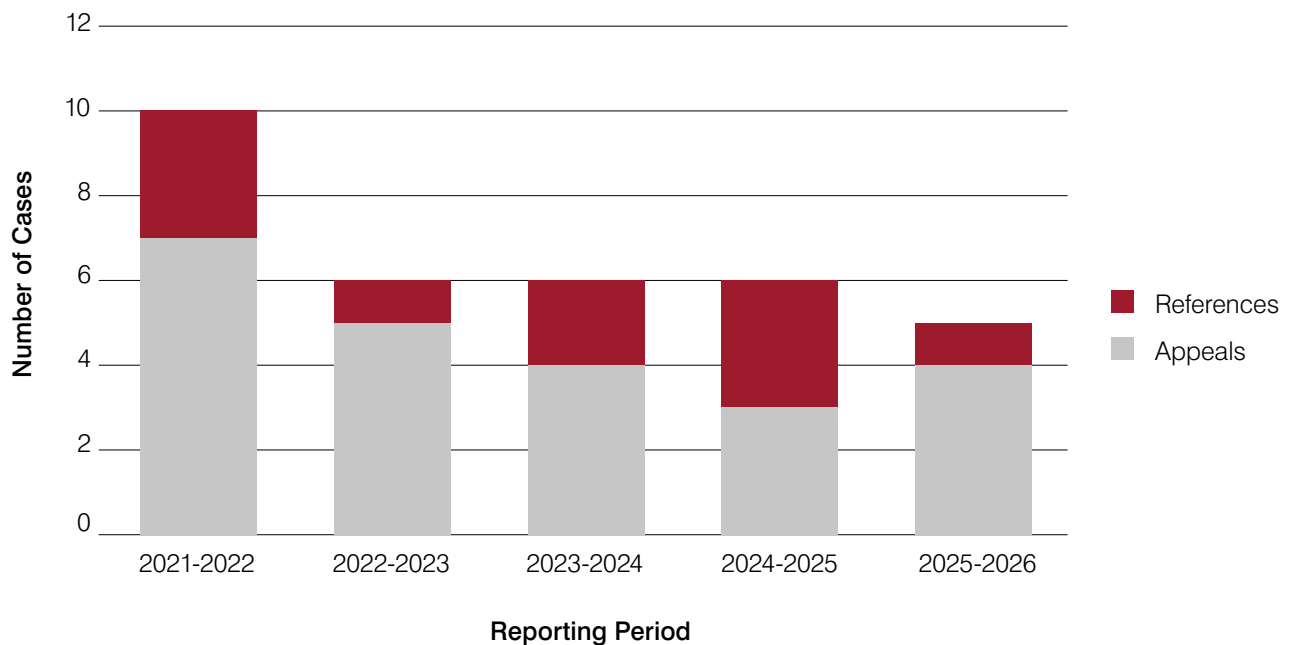
Numbers and Statistics

A Tribunal year runs from April to March. As the numbers of cases received are relatively low, figures are given for a 5-year period to allow for comparison.

The following statistics are collated:

- number of references and appeals received
- type of applications received and registered
- number of applications finalised
- outcome of applications.

Graph 2.1 Number of references and appeals received by year April 2021 – March 2026



Graph 2.2 Number of references and appeals decided by year April 2021 – March 2026

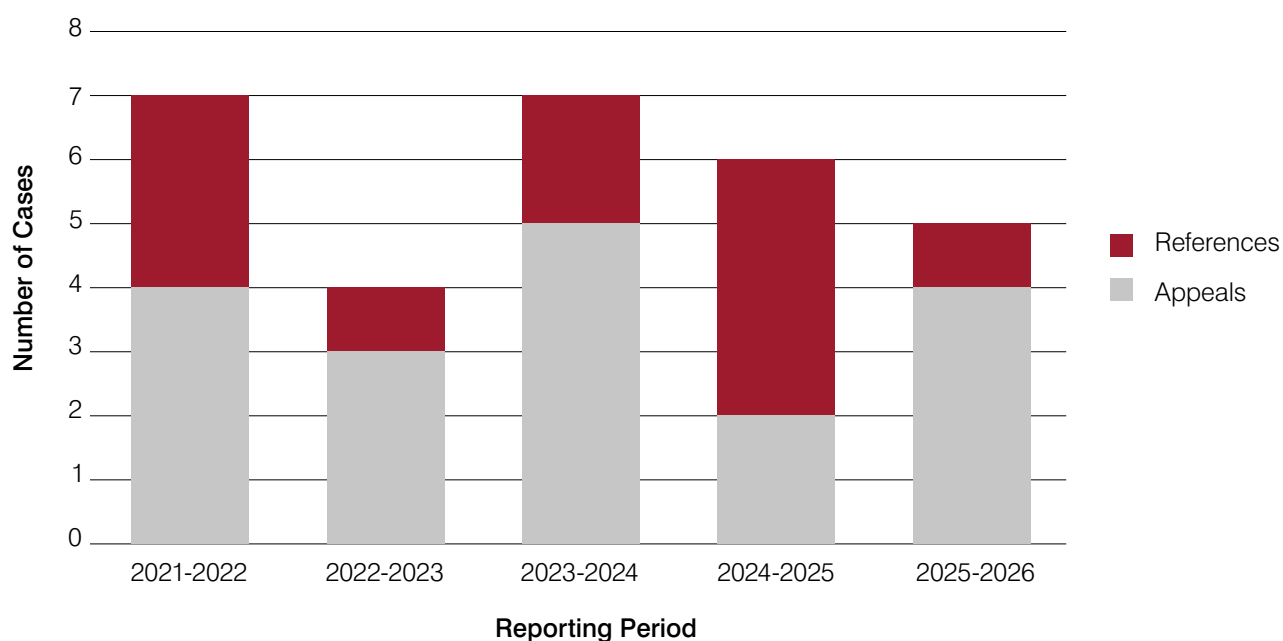
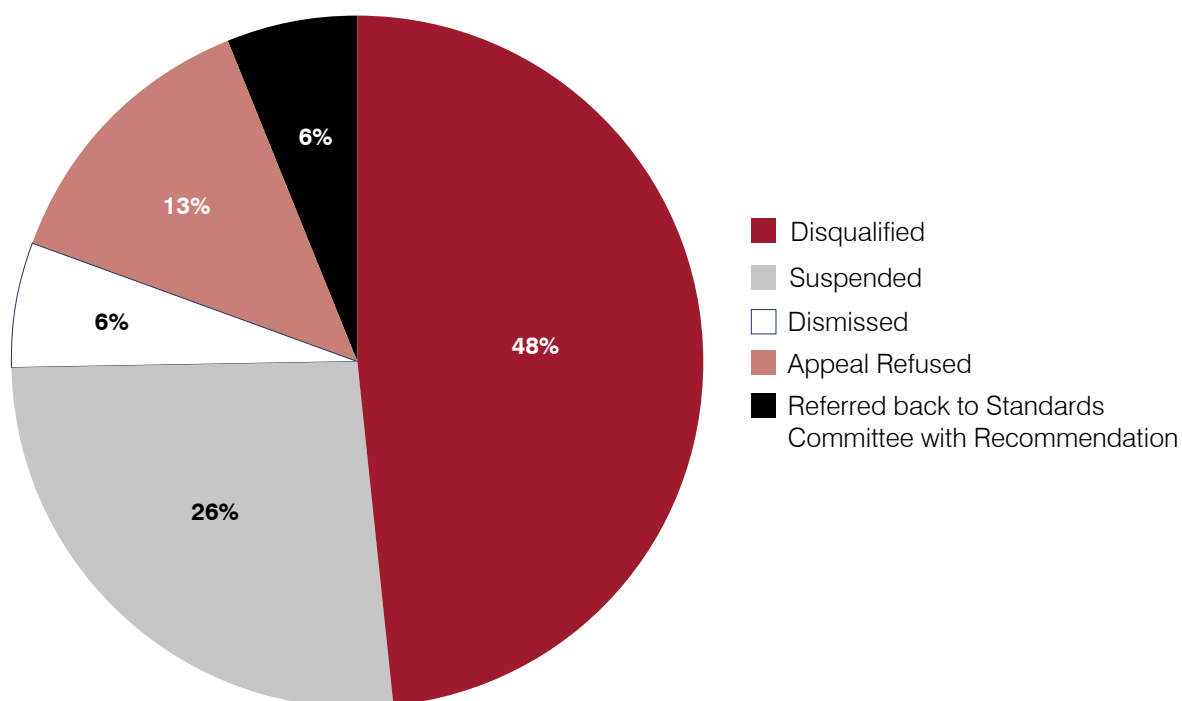
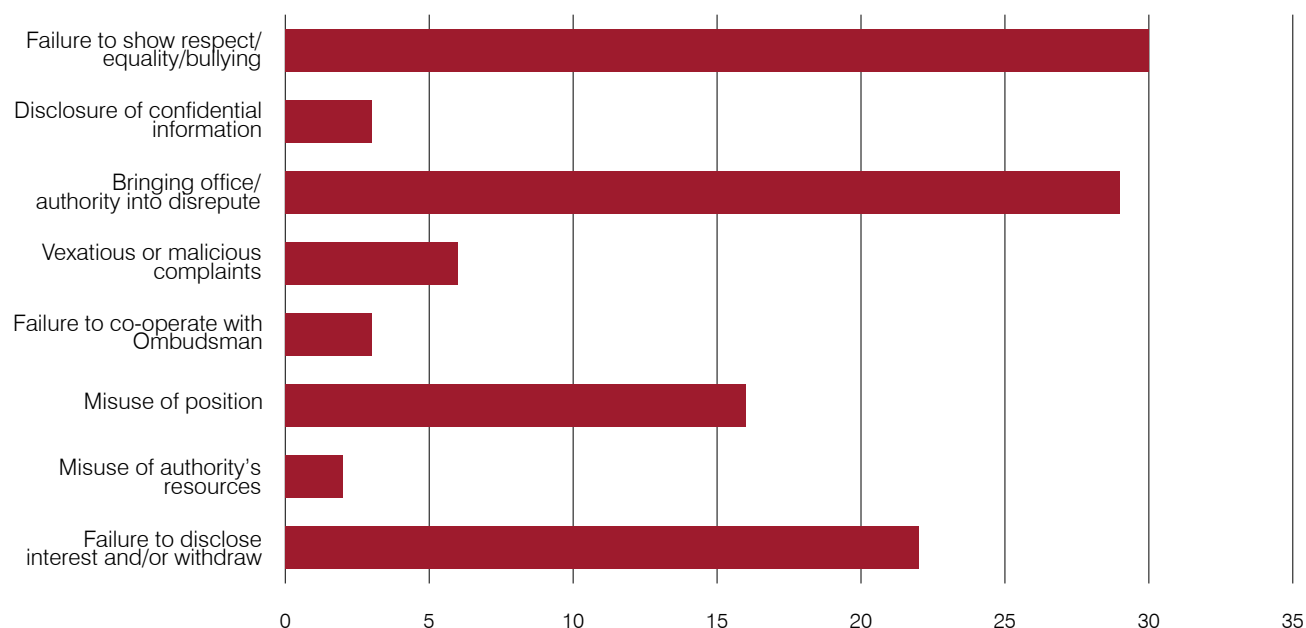


Chart 2.3 Outcomes of references and appeals April 2021 – March 2026

The chart below shows the outcome of references and appeals decided by the Adjudication Panel over the last 5 years.



Graph 2.4 Breaches by type April 2021 – March 2026



Hearings data

During 2025 – 2026

Type	Length (in days)
Reference	5
Appeal	1

0 listing conferences took place in relation to these cases.

Onward appeals

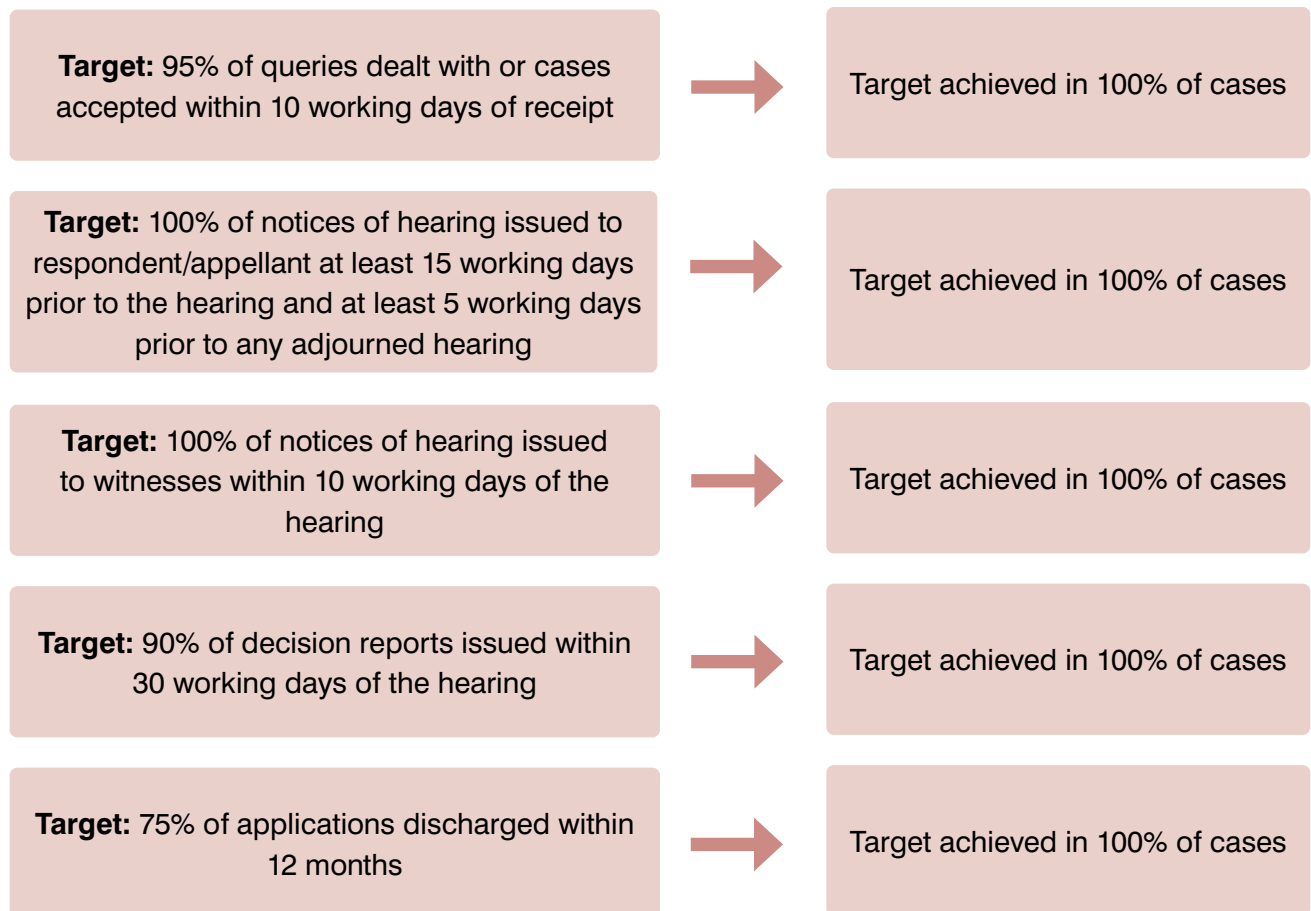
Applications for permission to appeal a decision of a Case Tribunal or Interim Case Tribunal can be made on limited grounds to the High Court. Over the period of this report, no applications for permission were made.

Achievement against key performance indicators

To monitor how effectively services are delivered, we have key performance indicators aimed at measuring two key aspects of our business; the speed of our service and the quality of service through customer satisfaction.

To measure the speed of our service, we have a series of primary performance indicators based on the time taken to process an application – from receipt to the hearing or disposal (see below).

Speed of our service 2025-26



Complaints

The APW received and concluded 0 formal complaints during the reporting period.

The Annual Report for the Agricultural Land Tribunal for Wales

Judge Christopher McNall, President of the Agricultural Land Tribunal for Wales

Introduction

1. The Tribunal continues to aim to provide a user-friendly, efficient, and expert service at a minimum cost to litigants and the public purse. Unlike the court system, no fee is payable when an application is made to the Tribunal and in nearly all cases there will be no liability to pay the costs of the other side, regardless of the outcome. Unlike private arbitrations or third-party determinations, no fee is payable by the parties for the panel hearing a case. The Tribunal is therefore a very cost-effective means of resolving disputes.
2. The Tribunal is an expert Tribunal, and I express my continuing thanks to the Tribunal's panels of farmers, landowners, and drainage experts. We draw heavily on their knowledge and experience in resolving disputes which come before us. All corners of Wales, and all types of Welsh agricultural activity, have a voice in the Tribunal. We were able to meet and update our knowledge and skills during our annual training session, held remotely, in autumn 2025.
3. I use this opportunity to thank the Tribunal's Secretary, the Tribunal Support Officer, its business manager and their colleagues in the Welsh Tribunals Unit for all their hard work over the past year.
4. I am also grateful to my four Deputy Chairpersons – Judge Tanveer Rakhim, Judge Brett Wilson, Judge Maxine Cole and Judge Trefor Lloyd – for their work on behalf of the Tribunal. I congratulate Judges Rakhim and Wilson on their appointment as salaried judges of the UK First-tier Tribunal.
5. Finally, I express the Tribunal's thanks to Sir Gary Hickinbottom for his guidance and support as the President of Wales Tribunals.

Tribunal Overview

Legal Basis

6. The Agricultural Land Tribunal for Wales (ALT Wales) is a statutory organisation established under the Agriculture Act 1947 with jurisdiction for the geographical area of Wales.
7. The Tribunal is independent of government. The ALT Wales plays an important role in determining disputes and other issues between agricultural landlords and tenants arising from tenancy agreements held under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986. The ALT Wales also determines disputes relating to the drainage of agricultural land under the Land Drainage Act 1991.
8. The overriding aim of the ALT Wales is to:
 - Provide a high performing, cost effective customer service for Tribunal users and members.
 - Ensure that all aspects of the Tribunal's work are administered in such a way as to achieve fair, independent and timely adjudication.
 - Operate within the legislative framework applicable in Wales.

Function

9. ALT Wales deals with disputes relating to:

Land drainage:

- Restoration or improvement of ditches.

Tenancy agreements:

- Notice to quit a holding
- Succession on death
- Succession on retirement.

Agricultural applications:

- Bad husbandry
- Burning of heather or grass
- Fixed equipment
- Long-term improvement/s
- Market gardens.

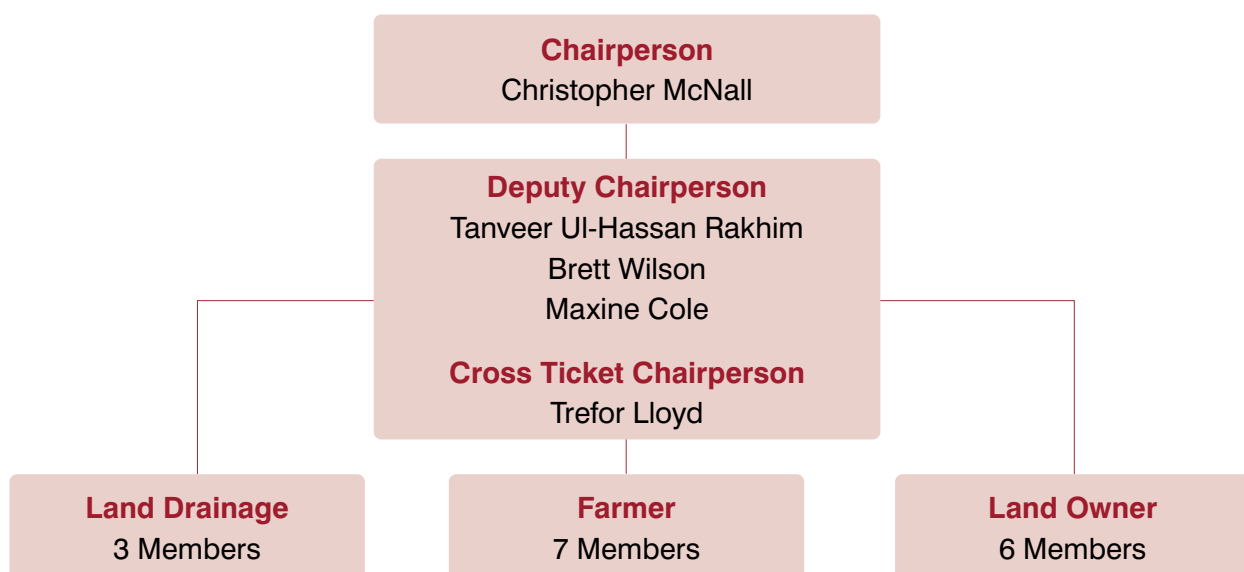
Rules

10. Regulations governing the Tribunal's procedures are set out in:
 - The Agricultural Land Tribunal (Area) Order 1982 (SI 1982/97)
 - The Land Drainage Act 1991
 - The Agricultural Land Tribunal (Rules) Order 2007.

Process

11. To make an application or appeal you must complete and send the relevant application form to the ALT Wales. Applications will be accepted in by post or email. There are no fees for making an application to the Tribunal.
12. The Tribunal will acknowledge your application, and will register your case within 10 working days or write to you to request further information. On registration, a copy of the Application will be sent to the party named as the Respondent.
13. An application to the ALT Wales does not necessarily result in a hearing. Many cases are settled between the parties and do not require a hearing. If the application proceeds to a Tribunal hearing; the panel is composed of a legally qualified chairperson and two lay members.
14. Before almost every Tribunal hearing, the Tribunal panel will conduct an inspection of the land relating to the application. The Tribunal may inspect the buildings, land and any livestock, equipment and produce. Tribunal hearings will take place near to the land in question or virtually.
15. Decisions of the ALT Wales can be appealed on limited grounds to the Lands Chamber of the Upper Tribunal.
16. Full information and guidance about the Tribunal and its procedures, are provided on it's website: www.agriculturallandtribunal.gov.wales/guidance-and-forms

Tribunal Structure



Business Priorities for 2026-27

17. It is important that the ALT Wales continues to develop in order to deliver the best possible service for our customers. This section is about how the ALT Wales will build on its achievements through focusing on business priorities and our commitment to our users.
18. Our priorities over the next year are as follows:
 - Continue to deliver high quality service ensuring KPIs are met.
 - Continue to monitor and update ALT Wales website.
 - Organise annual training conference for Tribunal members, identifying and responding to training needs.
 - Ensure that the Tribunal continues to maintain the Welsh language standards.

Agricultural Land Tribunal for Wales

Case Statistics and Key Performance Indicators

Number of Applications Received and Registered by Year and Type

Case Type	Applications Received and Registered				
	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Succession on Death	10	11	10	19	8
Succession on Retirement	2	1	2	0	2
Consent to Notice to Quit (Not Case G)*	0	0	2	8	6
Certificate of Bad Husbandry	0	0	0	0	1
Land Drainage	2	1	3	1	3
Consent to Long Term Improvements	0	0	0	0	0
Fixed Equipment	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	13	17	28	20

*The figures for earlier years included Case G Applications.

Number of Applications Finalised by year during 2021-26

Case Type	Cases Finalised (includes carried over)				
	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Succession on Death	17	9	19	7	4
Succession on Retirement	1	4	0	2	0
Consent to Notice to Quit (Not Case G)	7	3	8	3	1
Certificate of Bad Husbandry	0	0	0	0	0
Land Drainage	3	3	2	2	3
Consent to Long Term Improvements	0	0	0	0	0
Fixed Equipment	0	0	0	0	0
Total	28	19	29	14	8

Case Type	Outcome 2025 – 2026				
	Withdrawn	Consent Order	Dismissed	Granted	Carried Forward
Succession on Death	13	3	0	5	16
Succession on Retirement	1	0	0	0	2
Consent to Notice to Quit	1	1	3	0	4
Certificate of Bad Husbandry	0	0	0	0	0
Land Drainage	0	0	0	3	2
Consent to Long Term Improvements	0	0	0	0	0
Fixed Equipment	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15	4	3	8	24

Speed of our service 2025-26

Target: 100% of applications registered or pre-registration query dealt with within 10 working days of receipt of Application form	→	Target achieved in 100% of cases
Target: 100% of respondent's response to application to be issued to applicant within 10 working days of receipt	→	Target achieved in 100% of cases
Target: 100% of Drainage Reports and Net Annual Income Reports issued to parties within 10 working days of receipt	→	Target achieved in 100% of cases
Target: 100% of notice of hearing issued within 14 working days of the hearing	→	Target achieved in 100% of cases
Target: 100% of decisions issued within 30 working days of hearing	→	Target achieved in 98% of cases

During 2025-26 there was/were:

- 0 public hearings
- 4 hearings to consider Consent Orders (where panel members would meet without the parties present)
- 3 written Decisions issued
- 4 consent orders issued.

Reviews and onward appeals

Applications for a review of a Tribunal Decision can be made by parties on limited grounds. Over the period of this report, no Applications were made.

Parties can appeal to the Upper Tribunal on a point of law. Permission for leave to appeal must first be sought from the Agricultural Land Tribunal for Wales. The Tribunal Decision letter will advise you about any deadlines. 1 appeal was received during the course of the year.

Complaints

The Tribunal received no formal complaints during 2025-26.

The Annual Report for the Education Tribunal for Wales

Judge Jane McConnell – President of the Education Tribunal for Wales

Introduction

1. It has been steady year for the Tribunal – our first where all appeals are cases brought under the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALNET). It continues to be a steep learning curve for all JOHs (Judges and Specialist Members) as well as our administration working with the new legal framework.
2. My “Review of the ALN Legislative Framework in Wales” was published in September 2025 which provided an in-depth analysis of the new law. A copy can be found on the ETW website;
[Review of the Additional Learning Needs Legislative Framework in Wales](#)
3. We continue to ensure that child and young people remain the focus of our decision making.
4. Appeals under ALNET are increasingly complex compared to those under the previous SEND Legal Framework as they can contain a number of different grounds of appeal.
5. There is evidence that LA's are developing a better understanding of the legal requirements being placed on them under ALNET but this is not yet uniform across Wales. Clear communication to parents, children and young people of any decision being made by their responsible LA continues to be inconsistent. Too often the information about the right to appeal to the Tribunal is not provided.
6. This year we have had only four appeals registered by or for young people (those over compulsory school age) which is unexpected given that legislation now extends to cover young people up to the age 25 years old.
7. Again this year, we have had no appeals brought by or on behalf of children or young people in detention. Also, no appeals made by or on behalf of a Looked After Child.
8. There has been a rise in the number of Disability Discrimination claims made against schools. These are usually contentious cases where issues raised are not always within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal. Sometimes parents are looking to bring a discrimination case in frustration as they have been unable to navigate the ALN system.

9. The Tribunal has increasingly used Case Management as a tool to support parties identify the issues in dispute and then to guide them towards settlement. The holding of a Case Management Hearing brings parties together often for the first time in a managed environment. 29% of cases registered with the Tribunal were settled by consent – the majority of them following this process. A Consent Order is a binding decision of the Tribunal issued by a Judge following consideration of any agreement reached by parties. It means that both parties are happy with the outcome to some extent.
10. Information, advice, support and representation for parents, children and young people wishing to bring a case to the Tribunal remains scant. The question of how to ensure access to justice for this vulnerable group remains one firmly in the Tribunal's sights.
11. Judicial training this year focused on the ALN Legal Framework; specification of educational provision and health provision; when an educational placement can be named in an Individual Education Plan and the effect of precedent from caselaw issued by the Upper Tribunal. Developments in Disability Discrimination law were also carefully examined.
12. Applications requesting a Review of Tribunal decisions or for Permission to Appeal to the Upper Tribunal are increasing. This is to be expected and reflects the intellectually challenging drafting of ALNET. A disturbing development is the use of AI by unrepresented parents in making such applications. Overwhelmingly AI is generating unsubstantiated potential grounds of appeal based on irrelevant or non-existent law. This leads to false expectations that a Tribunal decision can be successfully challenged.
13. We have recently assigned three new Judges to the jurisdiction from other devolved Welsh Tribunals. Once fully trained they will add further capacity. A Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) competition is expected to be launched in the Summer 2026 to appoint further Judges to the ETW in expectation of any increase in work load as a result of the continued implementation of ALN legislation and implementation of Tribunal Reform. We would expect recruitment for additional Specialist Members to follow in 2027.
14. Acknowledgement and thanks must be given to the committed administration team of the ETW who have maintained a high level of service to our Users despite a period of limited resources. Also, to the flexibility of our JOHs in ensuring that all cases have a fair and just hearing. My Deputy, Judge Mark Allen, continues to provide his advice and support in the development of the jurisdiction.
15. As a team we remain committed to providing an effective route to justice for the children and young people of Wales to secure an appropriate education.

Tribunal Overview

Legal Basis

16. The Education Tribunal Wales is an independent tribunal. The previous Special Educational Needs Tribunal for Wales (SENTW) was established in 2003 by Section 333 (1ZA) of the Education Act 1996. It was renamed the Education Tribunal for Wales (ETW) by Section 91 of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.
17. The ETW, its tribunal members and decisions, are independent of the Welsh Government and local authority's (LAs) and our decisions are legally binding. Funding for the ETW and its administrative support is provided by the Welsh Government.

Function

18. The ETW hears and decides appeals relating to children and young people with additional learning needs. Appeals are made by parents, children and young people and are against certain decisions made by a LA or Further Education Institution (FEI) about a child's or young person's education. The ETW also hears claims of alleged disability discrimination in Welsh schools.

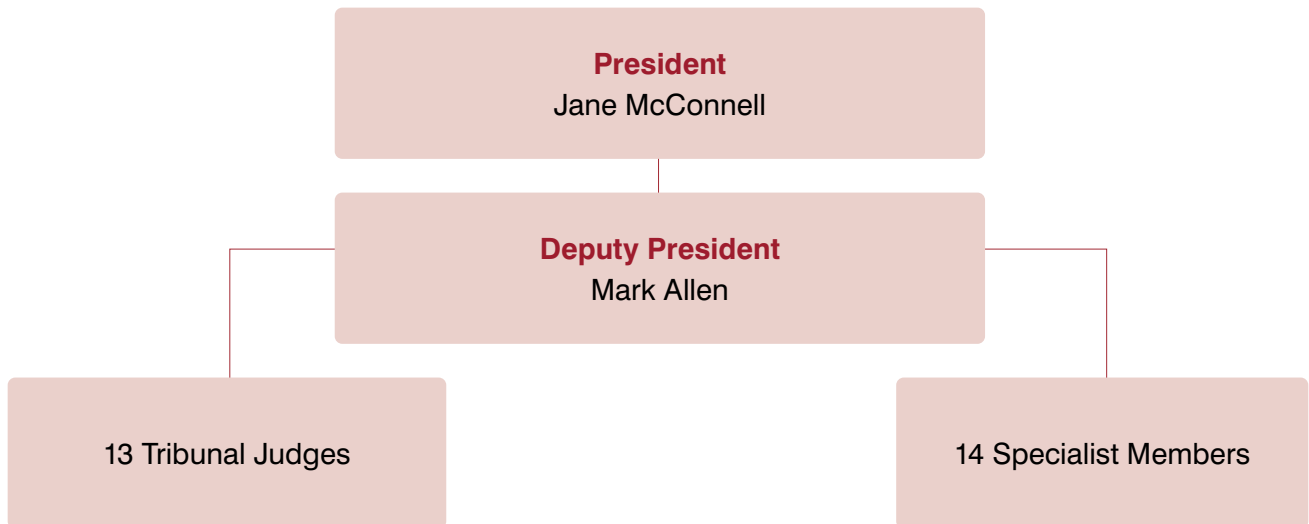
Rules

19. The ETW operates in accordance with its procedural regulations and other associated legislation. The regulations ensure that all cases heard by the ETW are treated fairly, consistently, promptly and justly. They ensure that everyone who comes before the ETW clearly understands the steps they must take so that the facts of the dispute and the relevant arguments can be presented effectively to the ETW. They also ensure that every party to a case understands the arguments of the other party and can respond to them.
20. ETW's procedures are governed by the following legislation:
 - The Education Tribunal for Wales Regulations 2021
 - Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018
 - Education Act 1996
 - The Equality Act 2010.

Process

21. Anyone wishing to make an appeal or claim to the ETW must complete and send the relevant application form to the ETW.
22. At a ETW hearing the panel is composed of a legally qualified Judge and two Education Panel Members. Education Panel Members have been appointed for their expertise and knowledge in the field of education.
23. ETW hearings will normally be held in private and take place near to the applicant's home or remotely by using a Virtual Hearing system.
24. Full information and guidance about the Tribunal and its procedures, are provided on it's website: www.educationtribunal.gov.wales/guidance-and-forms

Tribunal Structure



Business Priorities for 2026-27

25. It is important that the ETW continues to develop in order to deliver the best possible service for our customers. This section is about how the ETW will build on its achievements through focusing on business priorities and our commitment to our users.
26. Our priorities over the next year are as follows:
 - Ensure effective access to justice and advice and support for children and young people with ALN and Disabilities.
 - Make effective use of case management and judicial dispute resolution.
 - Promote information about the right to appeal or make a claim by Looked After Children and those children/ young people who are detained.
 - Deliver Judicial update Training focusing on Disability Discrimination and ALN Law.
 - Provide flexible hearings in Welsh and English as requested by parties.
 - Plan and deliver User Forum meetings across Wales and on-line.
 - Publish ETW decisions made under ALN Law and provide access to them effectively.
 - Review tribunal administration and its processes to deliver fair, just and timely decisions.
 - Prepare to move to any new Tribunal structure introduced as part of Tribunal reform in Wales.

Education Tribunal for Wales

Case Statistics and Key Performance Indicators

Chart 2.1 ALN Appeals received and discharged in 2025 – 2026

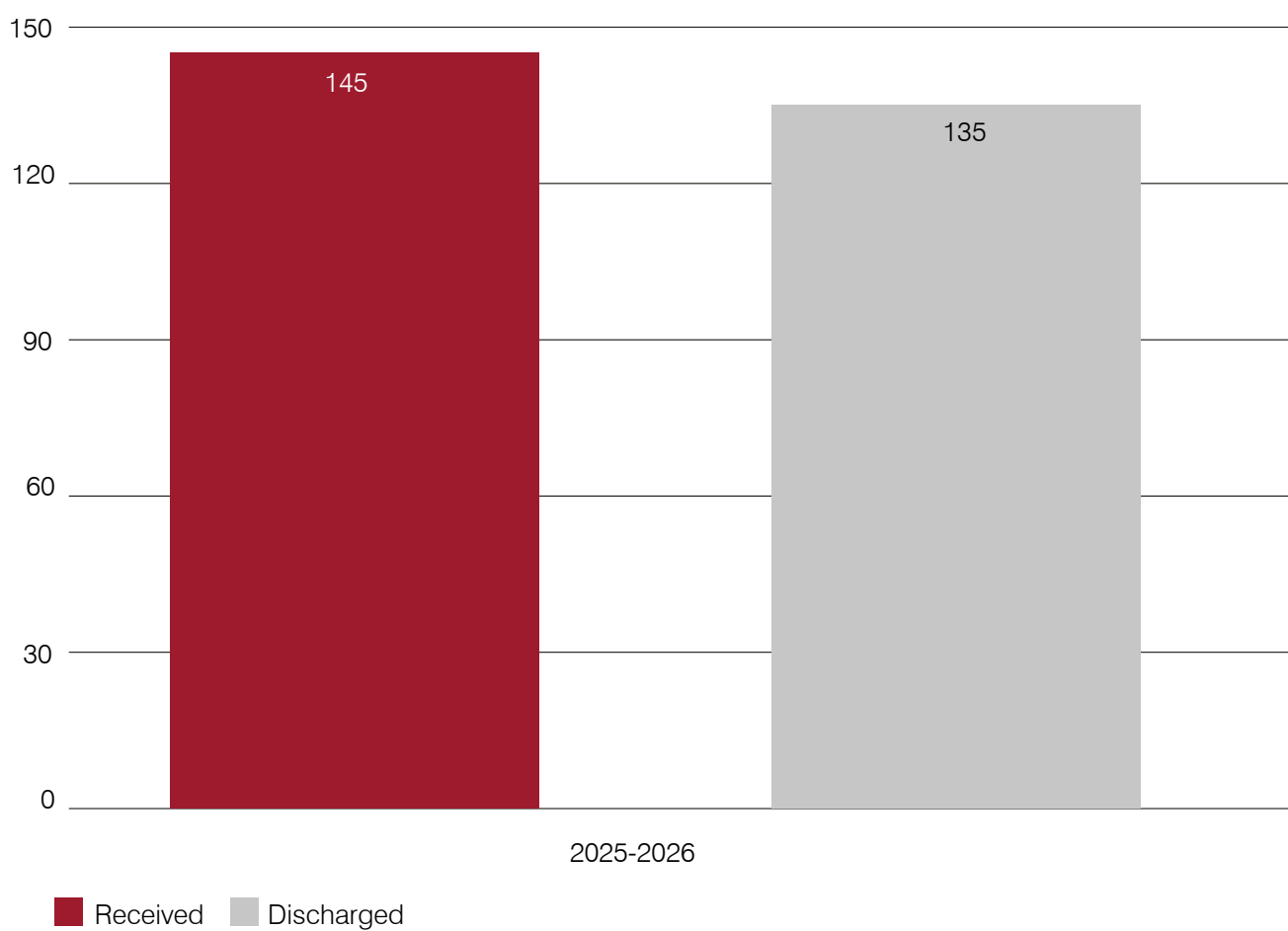


Table 2.2 Types of ALN appeals April 2025 – March 2026

Rights of appeal	Number
Does the child have ALN	20
LA prepare and maintain an IDP	12
Refusal to Change an IDP	13
Refusal to take over responsibility of an IDP	18
Cease to maintain	3
Refusal to decide a matter	10
Need	1
Provision	3
School	48
Need & Provision	14
Need and School	4
Provision & School	42
Need, Provision and School	31
ALP Welsh	1
Not confirmed	1
Total	221

Please note that an appeal registered with the Tribunal may have more than one ground of appeal.

Table 2.3 ALN Appeals by Local Authority April 2025 – March 2026

	Number of Appeals	Percentage of Appeals %
Blaenau Gwent	0	0%
Bridgend	0	0%
Caerphilly	5	3%
Cardiff	12	8%
Carmarthenshire	5	3%
Ceredigion	1	1%
Conwy	7	5%
Denbighshire	5	3%
Flintshire	6	4%
Gwynedd	14	10%
Merthyr Tydfil	1	1%
Monmouthshire	6	4%
Neath Port Talbot	3	2%
Newport	15	10%
Pembrokeshire	0	0%
Powys	12	8%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	20	14%
Swansea	3	2%
Torfaen	12	8%
Vale of Glamorgan	9	6%
Wrexham	4	3%
Ynys Mon	5	3%
Total	145	100%

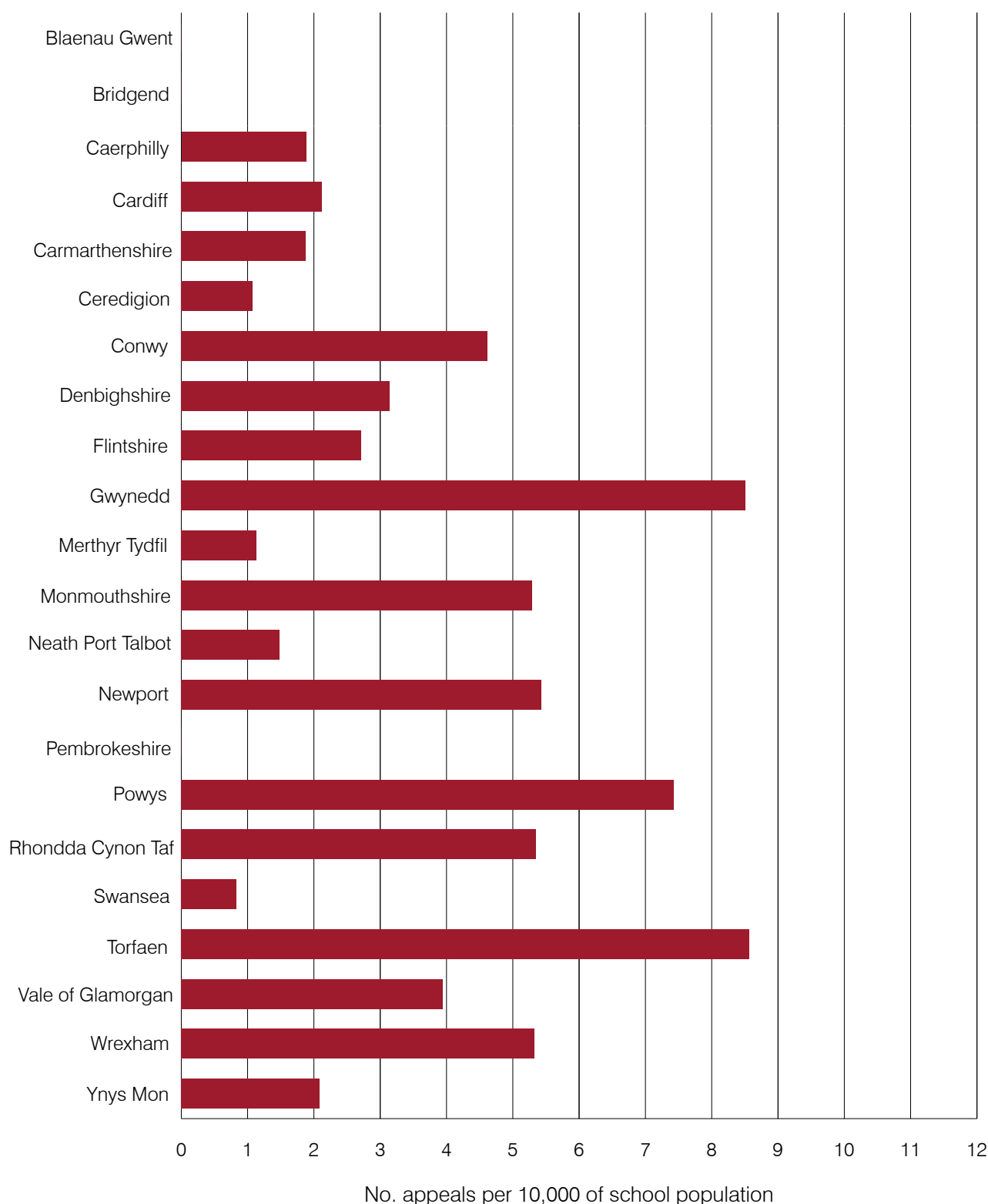
Table 2.4 Types of ALN Appeals by Local Authority (Part 1) April 2025 – March 2026

	Does the child have ALN	LA prepare and maintain an IDP	Refusal to Change an IDP	Refusal to take over responsibility of an IDP	Cease to maintain	Refusal to decide a matter	ALP Welsh	Not Confirmed
Blaenau Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bridgend	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caerphilly	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Cardiff	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	0
Carmarthenshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Conwy	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Denbighshire	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Gwynedd	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouthshire	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Newport	4	1	2	4	0	4	0	0
Pembrokeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Powys	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	5	2	2	0	0	1	0	0
Swansea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Torfaen	0	2	1	2	0	1	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Wrexham	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Ynys Mon	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	20	12	13	18	3	10	1	1

Table 2.5 Types of ALN Appeals by Local Authority (Part 2) April 2025 – March 2026

	Need	Provision	School	Need & Provision	Need & School	Provision & School	Need, Provision & School
Blaenau Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bridgend	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caerphilly	0	0	3	0	1	1	0
Cardiff	0	0	4	1	2	3	2
Carmarthenshire	0	0	2	0	0	3	2
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conwy	0	0	0	0	0	4	3
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Flintshire	0	0	1	2	0	2	2
Gwynedd	0	1	4	1	0	4	1
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Monmouthshire	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Neath Port Talbot	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
Newport	0	1	5	2	0	1	0
Pembrokeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Powys	0	0	2	1	0	5	3
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1	0	13	0	0	1	1
Swansea	0	0	2	0	0	1	1
Torfaen	0	1	7	1	0	1	1
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	1	2	0	6	6
Wrexham	0	0	0	0	1	3	3
Ynys Mon	0	0	4	0	0	1	0
Total	1	3	48	14	4	42	31

Chart 2.6 Appeals per 10,000 of school population in each local authority April 2025 – March 2026



■ April 2025 – March 2026

Table 2.7 Types of ALN Appeals by school age April 2025 – March 2026

	Nursery	Nursery to Primary transition	Primary	Primary to Secondary Transition	Secondary	Secondary to FEI Transition	FEI
Does the child have ALN	2	0	9	1	6	0	1
LA prepare and maintain an IDP	2	0	4	0	5	0	1
Refusal to Change an IDP	0	0	8	0	5	0	0
Refusal to take over responsibility of an IDP	0	1	10	0	7	0	0
Cease to maintain	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Refusal to decide a matter	1	0	5	1	3	0	0
Need in an IDP	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Provision in an IDP	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
School in an IDP	4	1	22	10	10	0	1
Need & Provision in an IDP	2	0	6	0	6	0	0
Need & School in an IDP	0	0	2	0	1	0	1
Provision & School in an IDP	1	1	18	2	20	0	0
Need, Provision & School in an IDP	0	0	11	2	18	0	0
ALP Welsh	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Not confirmed	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	12	3	99	17	84	0	4

Table 2.8 ALN Appeals by school age and local authority April 2025 – March 2026

	Nursery	Nursery to Primary transition	Primary	Primary to Secondary Transition	Secondary	Secondary to FEI Transition	FEI
Blaenau Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bridgend	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caerphilly	0	0	3	0	2	0	0
Cardiff	0	0	3	2	6	0	1
Carmarthenshire	0	1	1	1	2	0	0
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Conwy	0	0	2	0	5	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0	2	0	2	0	1
Flintshire	1	0	3	0	2	0	0
Gwynedd	1	0	10	2	1	0	0
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Monmouthshire	0	0	3	0	3	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Newport	1	0	10	0	4	0	0
Pembrokeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Powys	1	0	7	0	4	0	0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	2	0	8	4	4	1	1
Swansea	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Torfaen	1	0	7	1	3	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	5	1	3	0	0
Wrexham	0	0	2	0	2	0	0
Ynys Mon	1	1	3	0	0	0	0
Total	9	2	70	13	47	1	3

**Table 2.9 ALN Appeals by outcome April 2025 – March 2026
(including carried over appeals)**

	April 2025 – March 2026	
	Actual	Percentage
Out of Time	0	0%
Declined to register	2	1%
Upheld in Full	24	14%
Upheld in Part	16	9%
Consent Order¹	51	29%
Dismissed/struck out	15	9%
Withdrawn²	26	15%
Pending	42	24%
Total	176	100%

¹ Consent – An appeal is concluded by consent when the parties have reached agreement and a decision is issued by a Judge confirming the agreement reached.

² Withdrawn – a case is withdrawn when the applicant no longer wishes to continue with their appeal.

Table 2.10 ALN Appeal types by outcome and type April 2025 – March 2026 (including carried over appeals)

	Declined to register	Upheld in Full	Upheld in Part	Consent Order	Dismissed/struck out	Withdrawn	Pending
Does the child have ALN	0	5	0	9	4	2	6
LA prepare and maintain an IDP	0	4	0	10	3	1	2
Refusal to Change an IDP	0	1	4	6	3	1	5
Refusal to take over responsibility of an IDP	0	4	2	8	1	7	6
Cease to maintain	0	1	1	0	2	1	0
Refusal to decide a matter	0	0	0	4	1	3	3
Need in an IDP	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Provision in an IDP	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
Placement in an IDP	1	7	3	19	4	9	11
Need & Provision in an IDP	0	3	4	3	2	0	4
Need & Placement in an IDP	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Provision & Placement in an IDP	0	9	8	16	3	8	14
Need, Provision & Placement in an IDP	0	6	8	11	3	5	9
ALP in Welsh	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Not Confirmed	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	43	31	88	27	39	64

Table 2.11 ALN Appeal types by outcome and local authority April 2025 – March 2026 (including carried over appeals)

	Declined to register	Upheld in Full	Upheld in Part	Consent Order	Dismissed/ struck out	Withdrawn	Pending
Blaenau Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bridgend	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Caerphilly	1	1	0	1	1	3	1
Cardiff	0	2	4	7	0	2	1
Carmarthenshire	0	2	0	2	1	2	0
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Conwy	0	1	2	1	2	1	1
Denbighshire	0	3	0	2	0	0	1
Flintshire	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
Gwynedd	1	1	2	3	1	4	5
Merthyr Tydfil	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Monmouthshire	0	0	0	2	0	0	4
Neath Port Talbot	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Newport	0	2	0	11	2	2	3
Pembrokeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Powys	0	4	2	3	1	0	5
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	3	1	10	2	2	5
Swansea	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Torfaen	0	0	0	0	0	4	5
Vale of Glamorgan	0	2	3	3	2	2	3
Wrexham	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Ynys Mon	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
Total	2	24	16	51	15	26	42

Chart 2.12 Claims of alleged disability discrimination received and discharged including carried forward April 2025 – March 2026

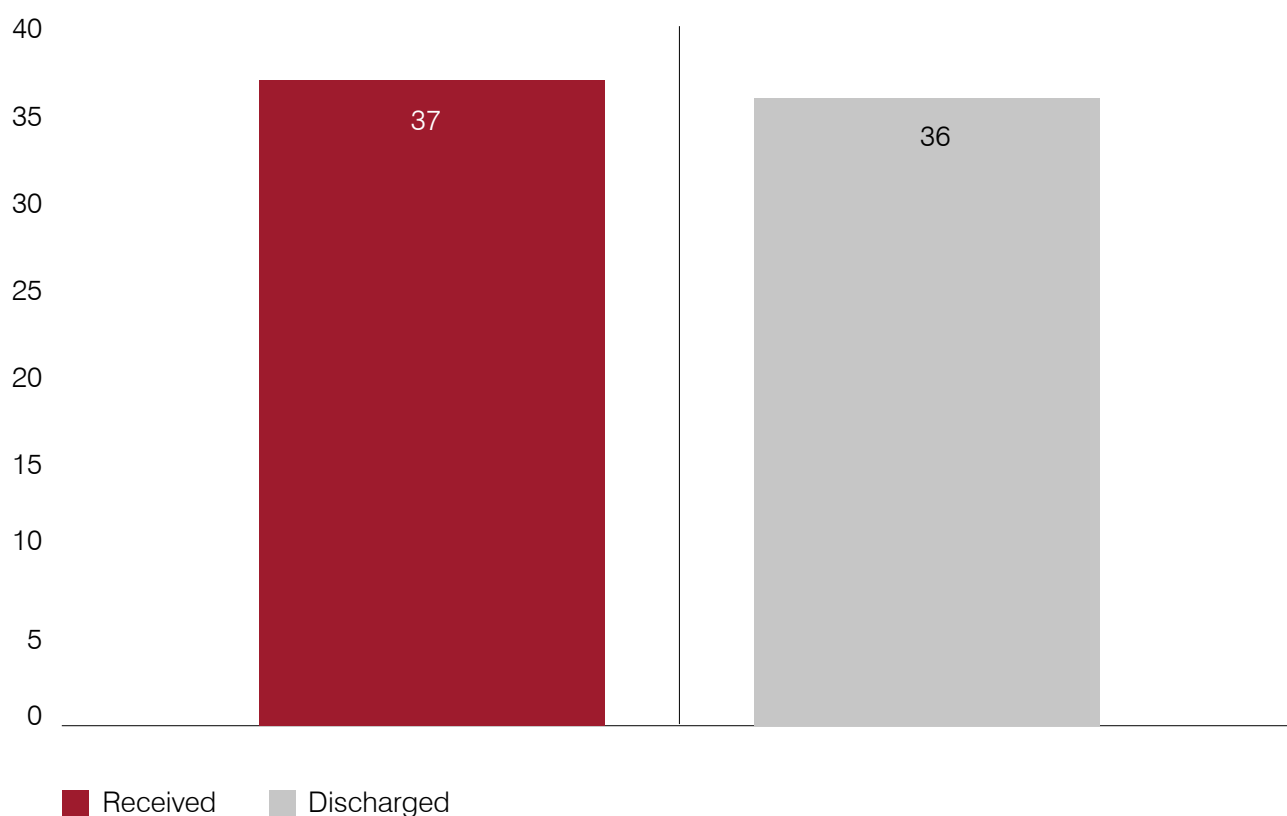
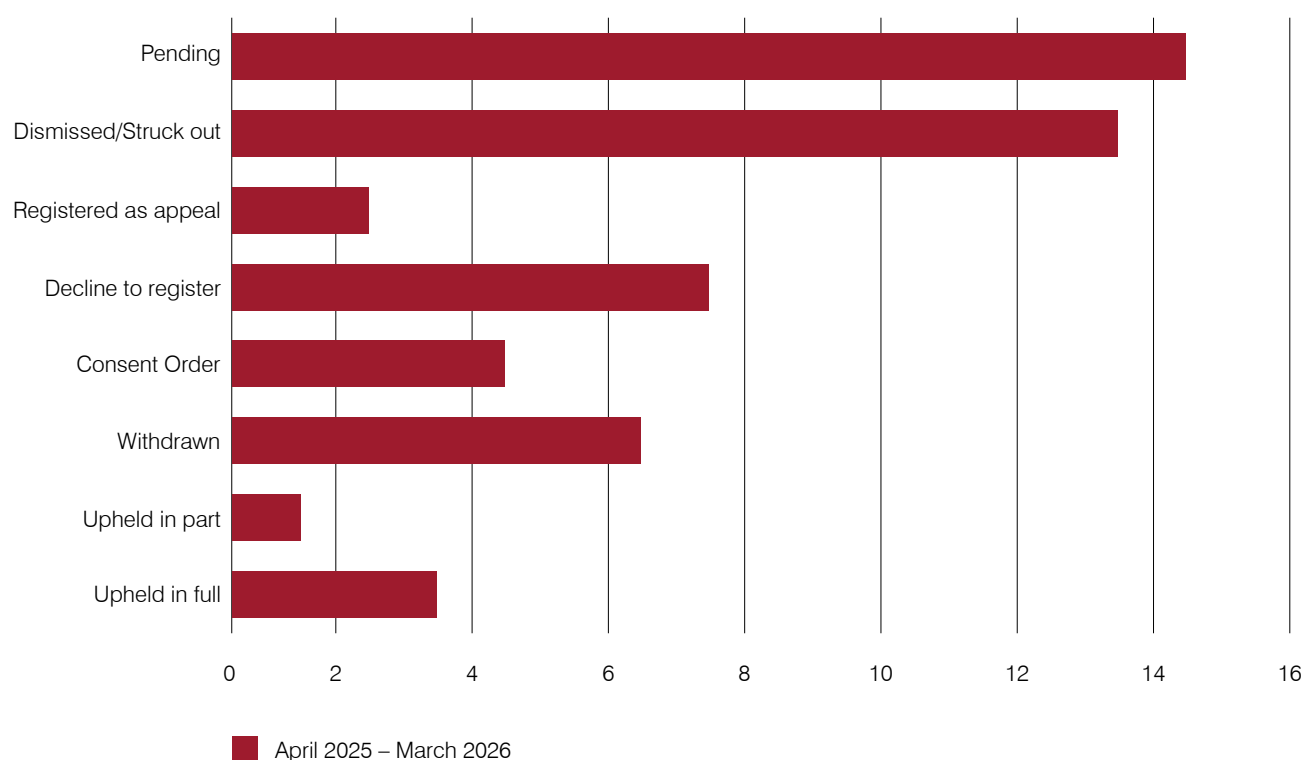


Table 2.13 Types of claims received during April 2025 – March 2026

Type of claim	Number	Percentage
Admissions	2	5%
Education	17	46%
Exclusions	6	16%
Admissions and Education	2	5%
Admissions and Exclusions	0	0%
Education and Exclusions	4	11%
Admissions, Education and Exclusions	0	0%
Not recorded	6	16%
Total	37	100%

Chart 2.14 Claims of alleged disability discrimination by outcome September 2025 – March 2026 including carried forward



Hearings Data

During April 2025 to March 2026 the Tribunal held 157 hearings of those, 61 were Case Management Hearings. Of the 96 full hearings, 94 were held as virtual hearings and 2 hearings were held in person. 9 hearings and 3 Case Management Hearings were held in the Welsh Language.

Type	Number of days
Appeal	81
Claim	15

Reviews and onward appeals

Applications for a review of a Tribunal decision can be made by parties on limited grounds and parties may also request permission of the Tribunal to make an application to the Upper Tribunal if they think that the Tribunal's decision is wrong on a point of law.

Over the period of this report, 16 applications for permission to appeal were made, 9 were refused, 1 was reviewed and the other applications were ongoing at the end of March 2026.

1 combined application for permission and review was received during the reporting period and was ongoing at the end of March 2026.

The Annual Report for the Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales

Judge Jane McConnell – President of the Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales

Introduction

1. Since being appointed President in October 2025, I have been working with JOHs (Judges, Medical Members and Specialist Members) and the administrative team to review the work of the Tribunals to ensure it is patient focused and promotes their ability to access justice.
2. Changes are now starting to be introduced to how we process applications/referrals through to a timely and effective hearing. The administration of the Tribunal had been severely understaffed for an extended period of time but with the arrival of seven new caseworkers, in Spring 2026 workloads have started to become more manageable. As you will see from the statistics below, credit has to be given to administration staff and their leadership team for working tirelessly to ensure that the majority of hearings have been held within required statutory time limits. Thank you.
3. The discovery in December 2025 that the qualifications required of Tribunal Medical Members needed further clarification. This led to emergency legislation being required in the Senedd. Collaborative working between all political parties, Welsh Government administration and the Judicial team meant this was successfully introduced and concluded within 3 days. With the support of existing JOHs, the Tribunal were able to ensure no patient was disadvantaged.
4. All JOHs are required to undergo annual compulsory training to maintain their knowledge, skills and abilities. Changes introduced by the Mental Health Act 2025 will be central to the training programme going forward as they are introduced.
5. Dr Vaughan Williams has been appointed as the Lead Medical Member of the Tribunal. For the first time, the tribunal has also appointed a Lead Specialist Member, Mr Jeff Davies. Both are extremely experienced professionals and have been members of the Tribunal for many years. They will play an important role in the development of the Tribunal.
6. We have recruited 13 new Medical Members to join the jurisdiction. Once fully trained, they will enhance our ability to provide timely in-person hearings across all areas of Wales where requested.
7. The Tribunal will continue to work with Health Boards to ensure that appropriate, safe and secure venues are available for hearings within Hospitals and Secure Units.
8. It is important that the Tribunal works with everyone involved across Wales in supporting and working with individuals experiencing periods of uncertain mental health. Decisions concerning their detention or treatment must be based on the most up to date and comprehensive evidence possible. I have started to meet with representative groups and individuals to discuss how this can be improved. To date, I have met with the responsible Cabinet Secretary in Welsh Government, the Welsh

Government Mental Health Policy team, MIND Cymru, The Law Society in Wales and the Royal Society of Psychiatrists Wales. I attended the annual conference of the Association of Mental Health Lawyers and was very pleased to meet in-person key solicitors working in Wales. The Legal Wales Conference was another opportunity to promote the work of the MHRTW.

9. The Tribunal have started holding six-monthly “User Forums” (two were held on-line in December 2025 and a further two are being held in June 2026 in-person and on-line). They are open to anyone who has an interest in the work of the Tribunal and provides an opportunity for the Tribunal to share developments, changes and trends. Also to receive feed-back and hear concerns from Users. If you would like to join future User Forum meetings, please contact the Tribunal administration by emailing MHRT@gov.wales and your details will be added to the circulation list.
10. I would like to thank all judicial officer holders for their flexibility and commitment to the important work that we do in Wales. Special recognition needs to be given to the salaried judicial team, Judge Christine Butcher and Judge Richard Payne, for their support over the past months as I have settled into my role.
11. I look forward to working with you all over the coming year to provide patients with increasingly effective access to the Tribunal.

Tribunal Overview

Legal Basis

12. The Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales (MHRTW) is an independent judicial body established under the Mental Health Act 1959 operating under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983 (as amended). The MHRTW has the responsibility of deciding applications and referrals concerning patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 (MHA), patients subject to community treatments orders (CTOs), guardianship and patients conditionally discharged from hospital.

Function

13. The MHRTW provides a significant safeguard for patients who have had their liberty curtailed under the Mental Health Act. It is for those who believe that a patient should continue to be liable to detention or remain a supervised community treatment patient to prove their case and not for the patient to disprove it. They therefore need to present the tribunal with sufficient evidence to support their case. Clinical and social reports form the backbone of this evidence and these are tested orally at hearings in the presence of the patient. The procedures to be followed are clearly laid down in the MHRTW Rules 2008.

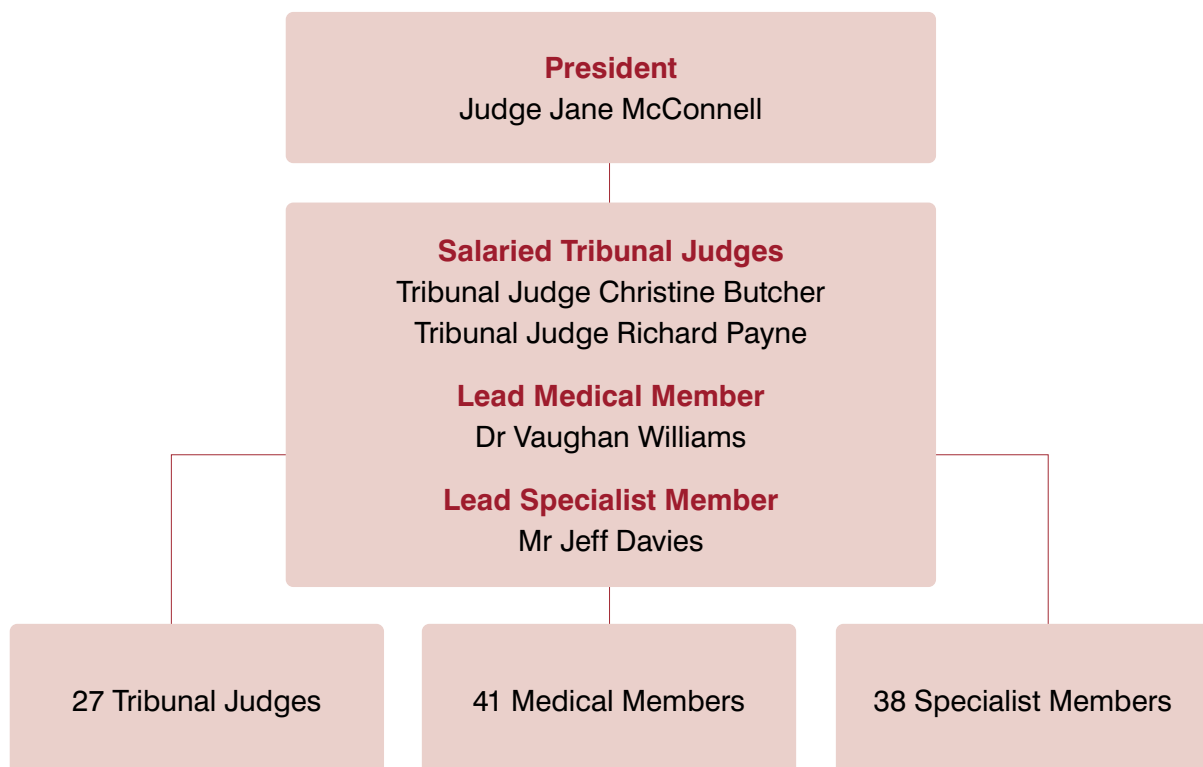
Rules

14. The Tribunal operates in accordance with the procedures set out in the MHRTW Rules 2008 which can be found at:
www.mentalhealthlaw.co.uk/Mental_Health_Review_Tribunal_for_Wales_Rules_2008
15. The purpose of the MHRTW Rules 2008 is to ensure that all cases heard by the Tribunal are dealt with fairly, justly, efficiently and expeditiously. The Rules require the Tribunal to ensure, as far as possible, that all parties are able to participate fully in the proceedings.

Process

16. MHRTW applications and references broadly fall into three categories:
17. **Restricted patients** – these are mentally disordered offenders who are detained in hospital for treatment and who are subject to special controls by the Ministry of Justice because of the level of risk they pose. They may in due course become conditionally discharged as part of their gradual return to the community. The MHRTW has jurisdiction to make decisions about the absolute and conditional discharge of restricted patients, as well as the variation of conditions upon them.
18. **Unrestricted patients** – these are non-offender patients who are detained in hospital, under either Section 2 or Section 3 of the MHA, suffering from a mental disorder of a nature or degree warranting detention. Section 2 of the MHA is used where there is a need for assessment, or assessment followed by medical treatment, for at least a limited period and section 3 of the MHA is used where there is a need for treatment. The task of the Tribunal is to decide whether at the time of hearing the criteria justifying detention continue to be met.
19. **Community patients** – these patients are not detained but may be subject to either a Community Treatment Order (CTO) or a guardianship order. The task of the Tribunal is to decide whether at the time of hearing the criteria justifying these orders continue to be met.
20. Full information and guidance about the Tribunal and its procedures, are provided on it's website: <https://mentalhealthreviewtribunal.gov.wales/guidance-and-forms>

Tribunal Structure



Business Priorities for 2026-27

21. It is important that the MHRTW continues to develop in order to deliver the best possible service for patients. This section is about how the MHRTW will build resilience through focusing on priorities and our commitment to our users.
22. Our priorities over the next year are as follows:
 - Improve effective access to justice for patients
 - Establish stake holder relationships
 - Promote information about the role and work of the Tribunal
 - Deliver Judicial update training
 - Provide flexible hearings in-person or on-line as requested by parties
 - Provide flexible hearings in Welsh and English as requested by parties
 - Review appraisal scheme
 - Ensure availability of appropriate and safe hearing rooms in hospitals and community settings
 - Plan and deliver User Forum meetings across Wales and on-line
 - Review tribunal administration and its processes to deliver fair, just and timely decisions
 - Prepare to move to any new Tribunal structure introduced as part of Tribunal reform in Wales.

Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales

Case Statistics and Key Performance Indicators

Numbers and Statistics

A tribunal year runs from 1 April to 31 March.

The following statistics are collated:

- Number of applications and referrals received
- Number of case files resulting from these applications and referrals
- Number of hearings held
- Number of case files finalised at first hearing
- Number of case files which did not proceed to a hearing and reasons.

Applications and referrals received, and their case files

Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, the Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales received 1,869 applications or referrals for a Tribunal hearing.

An application or referral may result in a number of hearings being scheduled, as the same application may be adjourned or postponed for a variety of reasons, and on more than one occasion. Therefore, a number of different case files will be created.

From applications and referrals received between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, 2,263 cases were created.

Not all of those case files were closed by 31 March 2026.

At the time of writing, 190 cases remain to be heard in the next Financial Year (1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027).

All case files created and their result

The below table shows all cases created from applications/referrals received in 2025-26, and the end result of those cases.

If an explanation to a status is not listed below, it can be found on our website at the following link

<https://mentalhealthreviewtribunal.gov.wales/sites/mentalhealthreview/files/2019-06/mhrtw-16-list-of-words-en.pdf>

Table 1

Case Outcome	Number of Cases
Absolute Discharge	2
Adjourned	159
Conditional Discharge	16
Deceased (patient died before the case could progress)	4
Deferred Conditional Discharge	0
Deferred Discharge	13
Discharged	48
Informal (patient discharged by the detaining authority)	533
Not Discharged	684
Open (case is yet to be heard)	190
Postponed	245
Request Ineligible (applications or referrals incorrectly made to the MHRTW)	38
Transferred out of Area (patient transferred out of Wales before proceeding to a hearing)	32
Withdrawn (application withdrawn by the patient before the day of hearing)	247
Withdrawn on the Day (application withdrawn by the patient after commencement of the hearing)	52
Total	2,263

Applications and referrals received which did not have a hearing date arranged, and the reasons why

Of the 2,263 cases detailed in Table.1 above, a total of 148 Applications and Referrals did not progress to having a hearing date arranged. The table below provides further information on the reasons why.

Table 2

Reason for not Proceeding to a Hearing	Number of Cases
Deceased (patient died)	4
Informal (patient discharged by the detaining authority)	78
Request Ineligible (applications or referrals incorrectly made to the MHRTW)	30
Transferred Out of Area (patient transferred out of Wales before proceeding to a hearing)	11
Withdrawn (application withdrawn by the patient)	25
Total	148

Hearings scheduled

During this financial year, a total of 2074 hearings were scheduled. The hearings scheduled in 2025-26 are not all from applications and referrals received in the same year and are therefore reported separately.

Hearings scheduled which proceeded to an outcome

The below table shows a breakdown of hearings that were held in 2025-26 that proceeded to an outcome. For the purposes of this report, an outcome is taken to mean that the patient was either (a variant of) discharged or not discharged or withdrew their application during the course of the hearing.

Table 3

Month	Restricted	Community	Unrestricted	Total (Month)
April	14	9	75	98
May	13	8	73	94
June	8	10	78	96
July	16	9	91	116
August	12	4	74	90
September	13	6	91	110
October	12	6	84	102
November	5	5	93	103
December	15	2	55	72
January	15	7	68	90
February	10	5	75	90
March	10	7	85	102
Total (Year)	143	78	942	1,163

Of the above hearings, 77 resulted in discharge.

684 hearings resulted in the patient not being discharged.

52 applications were withdrawn on the day at the request of the patient.

Of the unrestricted hearings held, 296 were section 2 applications/Welsh minister referrals.

Applications and referrals finalised at first hearing

The total number of cases that proceeded to an outcome at the first hearing was 708.

Hearings scheduled but which did not proceed, and reasons

The table below provides information on the reasons why hearings did not proceed to a final outcome.

All of the below postponed cases would have been rescheduled and heard at a later date.

Table 4

Reason for not Proceeding to a Hearing	Number of Cases
Informal (patient discharged by the detaining authority before proceeding to a hearing)	478
Withdrawn (application withdrawn by the patient before proceeding to a hearing)	265
Deceased (patient died before proceeding to a hearing)	0
Postponed (applications or referrals postponed before proceeding to a hearing)	291
Request Ineligible (applications or referrals incorrectly made to the MHRTW)	9
Transferred out of Area (patient transferred out of Wales before proceeding to a hearing)	25
Total	1,068

In addition to the tables above, 159 hearings were adjourned (to be heard at a later date), before proceeding to a final decision.

Appeals

There is no statutory provision for the MHRTW to review a decision, only to decide whether to give permission to appeal to the Upper Tribunal. Parties can ask permission from the President to appeal a tribunal decision to the Upper Tribunal on grounds of an error of law. If the President refuses permission to appeal the party may apply directly to the Upper Tribunal for permission to appeal.

Over the period of this report two requests were made to the President for permissions to appeal to the Upper Tribunal. One appeal was granted and one was refused.

Complaints

The Tribunal did not receive any formal complaints during this period.

Statutory and Best Practice Targets

The MHRTW has four statutory deadlines to meet.

Section 2 cases listed within 7 days of receipt

All section 2 applications or referrals that are received must be listed within seven days of the date of receipt. If the hearing is subsequently postponed or adjourned, the statutory listing date is then lifted; however the case must be heard before the section expires. If the deadline date falls on a Bank Holiday, the deadline date is then considered as the next working day.

In exceptional circumstances, any Party to the Tribunal hearing may request an extension to the listing date of a section 2 hearing. They must submit adequate reasons for their request, which will then be considered by the President or one of her Deputies. If the reasons are agreed, the hearing will then be listed on the 8th day after receipt of the application/referral.

560 section 2 applications/referrals were received and listed for the first hearing.

442 hearings were listed within the statutory timescale.

31 of the hearings were listed after 7 days because of a Bank Holiday.

87 of the hearings were listed on or after the 8th day with permission of the President or salaried judges.

Restricted recall referrals listed between 5 – 8 weeks

All Ministry of Justice Recall Referrals that are received must be listed within five to eight weeks of the date of receipt. If the hearing is subsequently postponed or adjourned, the statutory listing date is then lifted. If the deadline date for listing falls on a Bank Holiday, then the last possible day is considered as the next working day.

In exceptional circumstances, any Party to the Tribunal hearing may request an extension to the listing date of a Recall Referral. They must submit adequate reasons for their request, which will then be considered by the President or one of her Deputies. If the reasons are agreed, the hearing will then be listed on the next available date.

Only a Restricted Patient Panel member may chair a hearing for a Recall Referral. In some instances, there may not be an RPP member available to chair the hearing within the statutory timescale. All efforts are made to secure an RPP member, however if this is not possible, then the hearing may also be listed past the deadline date.

3 Ministry of Justice Recall Referrals were received and proceeded to be listed for the first hearing.

3 hearings were listed within the statutory timescale.

Section 2 decisions issued within 3 working days

78% of section 2 decisions were issued within 3 working days.

Of the 22% of decisions issued outside of the timescale, 12% were received for issuing past the deadline date. The remaining 10% were received in time but were issued at least one day past the deadline date.

Decisions for all other sections issued within 7 calendar days

84% of all other sections decisions were issued within 7 calendar days.

Of the 16% of decisions issued outside of the timescale, 9% were received for issuing past the deadline date. The remaining 7% were received in time but were issued at least one day past the deadline date.

Best Practice Targets

The MHRTW have 3 Best Practice targets to meet.

All cases acknowledged within 3 working days of receipt

85% of all applications and referrals received were acknowledged within the best practice target. This was due to lack of resource within the secretariat.

Non-restricted cases listed within 8 weeks

88% of all non-restricted cases were listed within the best practice target.

Some cases may have been listed 1 or 2 days over the deadline date for various reasons, including:

- A member of the care team required to attend the hearing being unavailable in the timescales provided.
- The legal representative for the patient being unavailable in the timescales provided.
- Panel members being unavailable to hear the case at a hearing.

Restricted cases listed within 14 weeks

94% of all restricted cases were listed within the best practice target.

Some cases may have also been listed 1 or 2 days over the deadline date for other reasons, including:

- A shortage of restricted patient panel (RPP) judges
- A member of the care team required to attend the hearing being unavailable in the timescales provided
- The legal representative for the patient being unavailable in the timescales provided
- Panel members being unavailable to hear the case at a hearing.

The Annual Report for the Residential Property Tribunal for Wales

Judge Trefor Lloyd – President of the Residential Property Tribunal Wales

Introduction

1. I am pleased to present my second annual report for the Residential Property Tribunal Wales (“RPT”). The tribunal has continued to receive and deal with a wide variety of applications during the last 12 months. Of the 198 total applications, 97 were before the RPT, 70 were Leasehold Valuation cases and 31 were Rent Assessment Committee cases.
2. The imminent implementation of some of the provisions of the Building Safety Act will result in additional and new applications being heard before the tribunal and steps are being taken to appoint specialist (building safety) valuer members as well as further training for existing members.
3. I mentioned in my last report having embarked upon Judicial Appointments Commission exercises to appoint a Vice President and new valuer members. The process is now complete and I was very pleased to welcome Kelly Byrne as Vice President in Oct 2025. Kelly is an experienced practitioner based in South Wales and prior to becoming Vice President Kelly had been a legal member since 2021. I look forward to working with her in the tribunal for many years to come.
4. In relation to the valuers exercise I was very pleased to welcome three new members, Dr Jack Rostron, Wyn Jones and Morgan Williams. They are all very experienced valuers. Jack was previously a legal chair with the RPT and valuer member in England and Wyn and Morgan are both valuer chairs in England. They have all undertaken their induction training and have sat in cases having become valuable members of the tribunal since appointment.
5. Other than the above changes the tribunal membership remains the same as last year.
6. As always I am grateful for the assistance and support of all members of the tribunal and to the tribunal staff in ensuring the smooth running of the tribunal from day to day.

Tribunal Overview

Legal Basis

7. The Residential Property Tribunal Wales (RPT Wales) is an independent tribunal that has been set up to resolve disputes relating to private rented and leasehold property.
8. The RPT Wales was established under the Housing Act 2004 as the umbrella organisation with responsibility for Rent Assessment Committees, Leasehold Valuation Tribunals and Residential Property Tribunals.

Function

9. The Rent Assessments Committees deal with disputes relating to:
 - Rent – both fair rents, and
 - Market rents – under assured and assured short-hold tenancies.
10. The Leasehold Valuation Tribunals deal with disputes relating to:
 - Leasehold disputes
 - Leasehold, service charges
 - Leasehold enfranchisement and lease extension for houses and flats, and
 - Tenants' association applications for recognition.
11. The Residential Property Tribunals deal with disputes relating to:
 - Empty dwelling management orders
 - Interim and final management orders
 - Licensing of houses in multiple occupation and selective licensing of other residential property
 - Housing, health and safety rating system
 - Park homes
 - Local authority gypsy and traveller sites, and
 - Licensing under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, Rent Smart Wales.

Rules

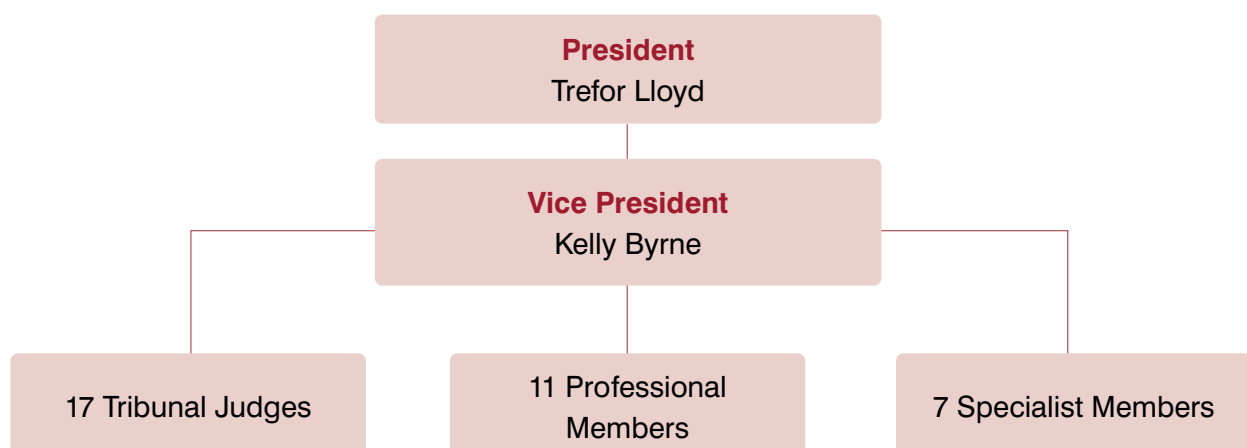
12. The jurisdiction of the RPT Wales is set out in the following legislation.
13. Rent Assessment Committees:
 - The Rent Act 1977
 - The Housing Act 1988
 - The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and
 - The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016.
14. Leasehold Valuation Tribunals:
 - Landlord and Tenant Act 1985
 - Landlord and Tenant Act 1987
 - The Leasehold Reform Act 1967
 - The Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993, and
 - Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002.
15. Residential Property Tribunals:
 - Mobile Homes Act (Wales) 2013
 - Housing Act 2004, and
 - Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

16. Regulations governing the tribunal's procedures are contained in the following legislation:
- Rent Assessment Committees (England and Wales) Regulations 1971
 - Leasehold Valuation Tribunals (Procedure) (Wales) Regulations 2004
 - Residential Property Tribunal Procedures and Fees (Wales) Regulations 2016, and
 - Mobile Homes (Site Rules) (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Process

17. To make an application or appeal you must complete and send the relevant application form to the RPT Wales. Certain types of applications dealt with by the RPT Wales incur an application fee and/or hearing fee.
18. Before almost every Tribunal hearing, the Tribunal panel will conduct an inspection of the premises relating to the application. The Tribunal needs to visit the premises to consider its state and condition or any physical aspects which will help it in reaching a decision.
19. At a tribunal hearing the Tribunal panel is usually composed of a legally qualified chairperson, 1 professional member, and 1 lay member. Tribunal hearings will normally be held in public and take place near to the property in question.
20. The Tribunal publishes its decisions on the website for the RPT Wales. Decisions of Rent Assessment Committees, Leasehold Valuation Tribunals and Residential Property Tribunals can be appealed on limited grounds to the Upper Tribunal. Permission to appeal to the Upper Tribunal must first be sought from the RPT Wales for decisions made by Leasehold Valuation Tribunals and Residential Property Tribunals.
21. Full information and guidance about the Tribunal and its procedures are provided on it's website: <https://residentialpropertytribunal.gov.wales/guidance>

Tribunal Structure



Business priorities for 2026-27

22. It is important that the Tribunal continues to develop in order to deliver the best possible service for our users. This section is about how the Tribunal will build on its achievements through focusing on business priorities and our commitment to our users.
23. Our priorities over the next year are as follows:
 - Continue to ensure the tribunal president responds to Welsh Government consultations which impact on the work of the RPT Wales
 - Continue to monitor and update RPT Wales Website
 - Deliver an effective and efficient service, meeting key performance indicators
 - Organise annual training conference for tribunal members, identifying and responding to training needs including training in new legislation
 - Identify and plan appraisal of tribunal members.

Residential Property Tribunal Wales

Case Statistics and Key Performance Indicators

Numbers and Statistics

A Tribunal year runs from April to March.

The following statistics are collated:

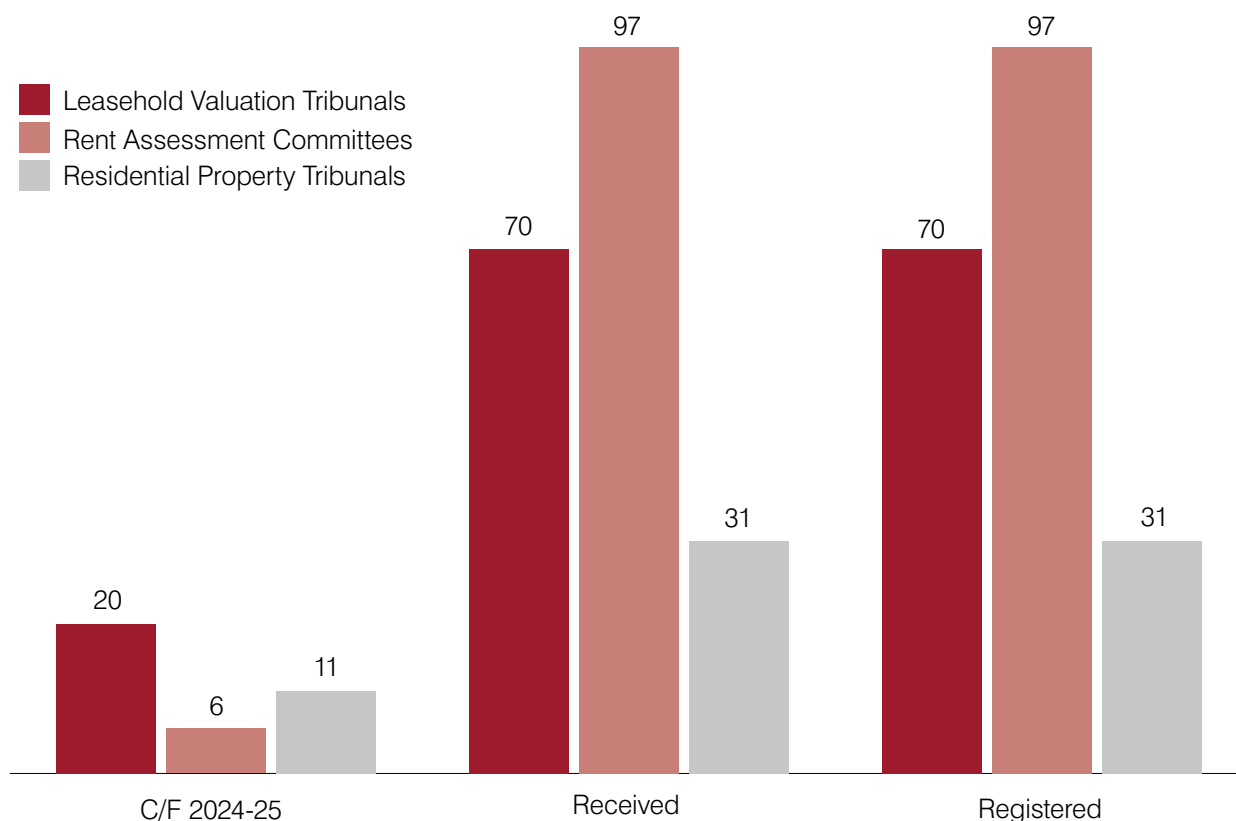
- number of applications received and registered
- type of application received and registered
- number of applications finalised
- outcome of applications.

2.1 Number of Applications Received and Registered 2025-26

During the year April 2025 to March 2026 the tribunal received a total of 198 applications. The Tribunal also carried forward 37 applications from 2024-25. The tribunal registered all 198 applications during 2025-26.

The chart below shows the numbers in each tribunal jurisdiction received and registered in 2025-26 and the applications carried over from 2024-25.

Chart 2.1 Number of Applications Received and Registered 2025-26



2.2 Number of Applications Registered in 2025-26 and Type of Application

Leasehold Valuation Tribunals (LVT) – deal with applications to appeal leasehold disputes, leasehold service charges, leasehold enfranchisement and lease extension for houses and flats, and tenants’ association application for recognition. The table below provides data on each tribunal jurisdiction applications received.

Appeals Registered by Type	2025-26
Leasehold Disputes	
Chapter 1, The Common-hold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 – Right to Manage	
Schedule 11, The Common-hold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 – Determination Liability to Pay or Variation of Administration Charge	2
Section 168 (4), The Common-hold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002, Breach of Covenant or Condition in Lease	5
Estate charges – liability to pay	
Section 20 C, Landlord & Tenant Act 1985 – Recovery of Costs	
Part IV, Landlord & Tenant Act 1985 – Variation of Lease(s)	1
Section 24, Landlord & Tenant Act 1985 – Appointment of Manager	4
Section 27 A, Landlord & Tenant Act 1985 – Service Charges	31
Section 20 ZA, Landlord & Tenant Act 1985 – Dispensation of all or any of the Consultation Requirements	14
Leasehold Enfranchisement	
Section 21(1)(ba), Leasehold Reform Act 1967 – Reasonable Costs Order	
Section 21(1)(a), Leasehold Reform Act 1967 – Determination of Price Payable	2
Leasehold Reform Housing & Urban Development Act 1993 – Leasehold Renewal	4
Leasehold Reform Housing & Urban Development Act 1993 – Missing Landlord	2
Leasehold Reform Housing & Urban Development Act 1993 – Reasonable Costs	1
Leasehold Reform Housing & Urban Development Act 1993 – Enfranchisement	
Leasehold Reform Housing & Urban Development Act 1993 – Collective Enfranchisement	1

Appeals Registered by Type	2025-26
Section 29, Landlord & Tenant Act 1985 – Recognition of Tenants’ Association	
Section 21, Leasehold Reform Housing & Urban Development Act 1993 – Ground Rent & Terms	
Fees waiver	
Section 15, Leasehold Reform Act 1967 – Ground Rent Review	3
Total	70

Rent Assessment Committees (RAC) – deal with applications to appeal rents, both fair rents, referrals made by the rent office and market rents – under assured and assured short-hold tenancies. The table below provides data on each tribunal jurisdiction appeal received.

Appeals Registered by Type	2025-26
Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016	24
Fair Rents – Referrals from the Rent Officer	6
Total	30

Residential Property Tribunals (RPT) – deal with applications regarding empty dwelling management orders, interim and final management orders, licensing, housing health and safety rating systems, mobile homes and local authority gypsy and traveller sites. The table below provides data on each tribunal jurisdiction appeal received.

Appeals Registered by Type	2025-26
Management Orders	
Management Orders	
Empty dwelling Management Orders	
Rent Repayment/Rent Stopping Orders	20
Temporary exemption	
Overcrowding	
Houses of Multiple Occupancy decisions	16
Housing Act 2004 – Section 27 – Refusal to Grant Licence	2
Improvement notices/prohibition orders	6
Local Authority Recovery of expenses	

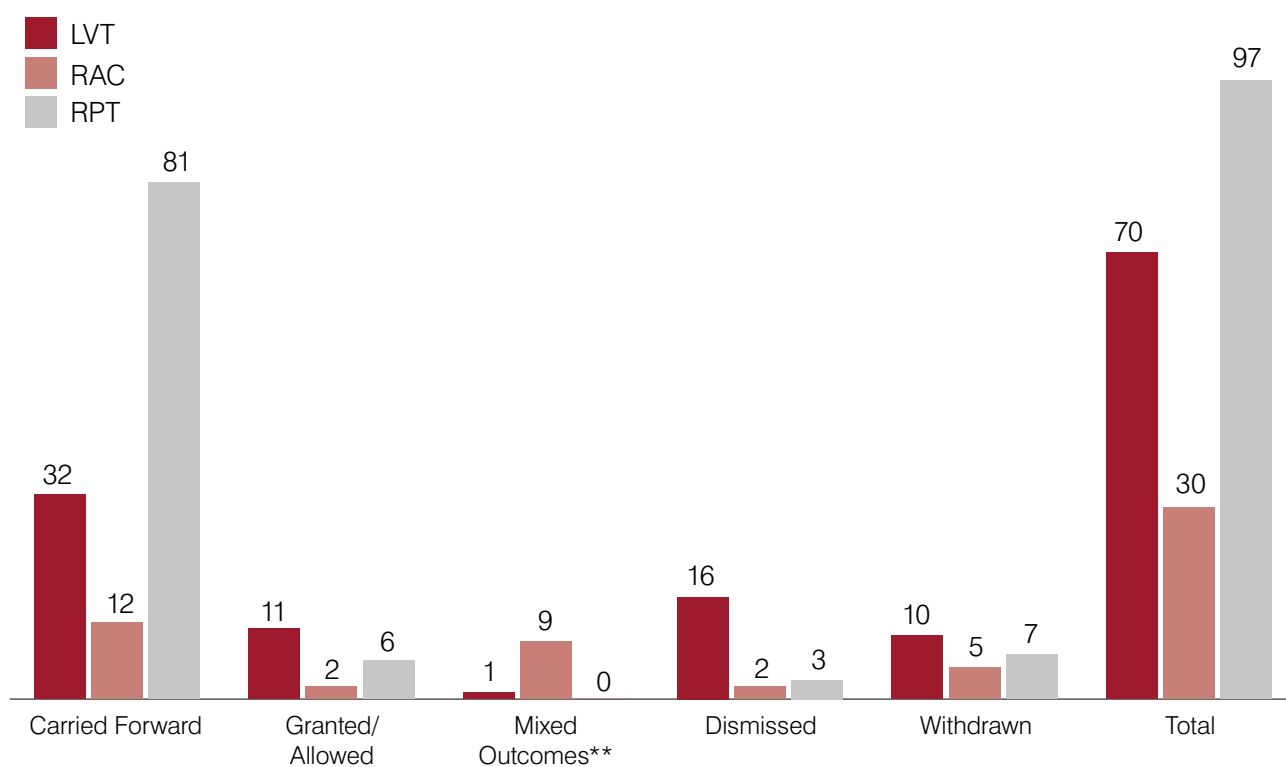
Appeals Registered by Type	2025-26
Mobile Homes – Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013	
Fees waiver	
Section 7(4)(b) – Site Licence – decision to issue	
Section 12(2) – Site Licence – decision to apply conditions	2
Section 14(1) – variation or refusal of condition of license by local authority	
Sections 17(2) & 23(1) – Compliance notice by local authority	
Sections 21(9) & 23(1) – Emergency action by the local authority	
Sections 22(7) & 23(1) – local authority’s demand for expenses	
Section 28(2) – Person managing site is not a fit and proper person	
Section 29(6) – Local authority’s decision that a person is not a fit and proper person	
Section 30(5) – Local authority’s decision to appoint an interim manager	
Section 33(6)(c) – Repayment order, by an occupier of an unlicensed site	
Section 49(5) – Written statement of terms of agreement	
Section 50(2) – Agreement of terms re matters Part 2 of Sch 2	
Section 50(3)(a) or 50(3)(b) – Implied terms vary/delete	
Section 54 – any other matter under the act	3
Schedule 2 Chapter 2 Para 7(1)(a) or Chapter 4 Para 40(1)(a) – Detrimental effect	
Schedule 2 Chapter 2 Paras 5, 6, 7(1)(b) – Termination of agreement	
Schedule 2 Chapter 2 Para 10(3) – Refusal order Site Owner	
Schedule 2 Chapter 2 Para 13(3) – Refusal order to prevent gift	
Schedule 2 Chapter 4 Para 42(8) – assignment of the occupier’s agreement is approved	
Schedule 2 Chapter 2 Paras 14(1)&(2) – temporary relocation of mobile home to another pitch	
Schedule 2 Chapter 2 Paras 14(3) – order for mobile home to be returned to its original pitch	
Schedule 2 Chapter 2 Paras 17(1)(b) & 17(6)(a) – determination of a new pitch fee	48
Schedule 2 Chapter 2 Para 18(1)(a)(iii) – improvements to be taken account when pitch fee is reviewed	

Appeals Registered by Type	2025-26
Schedule 2 Chapter 2 Paras 17(15) & (16) – owner to re-pay the difference between the old and new pitch fees	
Section 52(9) & (10) and Regulation 10(1) of the Mobile Homes Regulations 2014 – proposed, making varying or deletion of the site rules	
Section 52(9) & (10) and Regulation 17(1) of the Mobile Homes Regulations 2014 – site owner’s failure to deposit new or varied site rules, or a deletion notice, in time	
Total	97

2.3 Number of Applications 2025-26 by Outcome

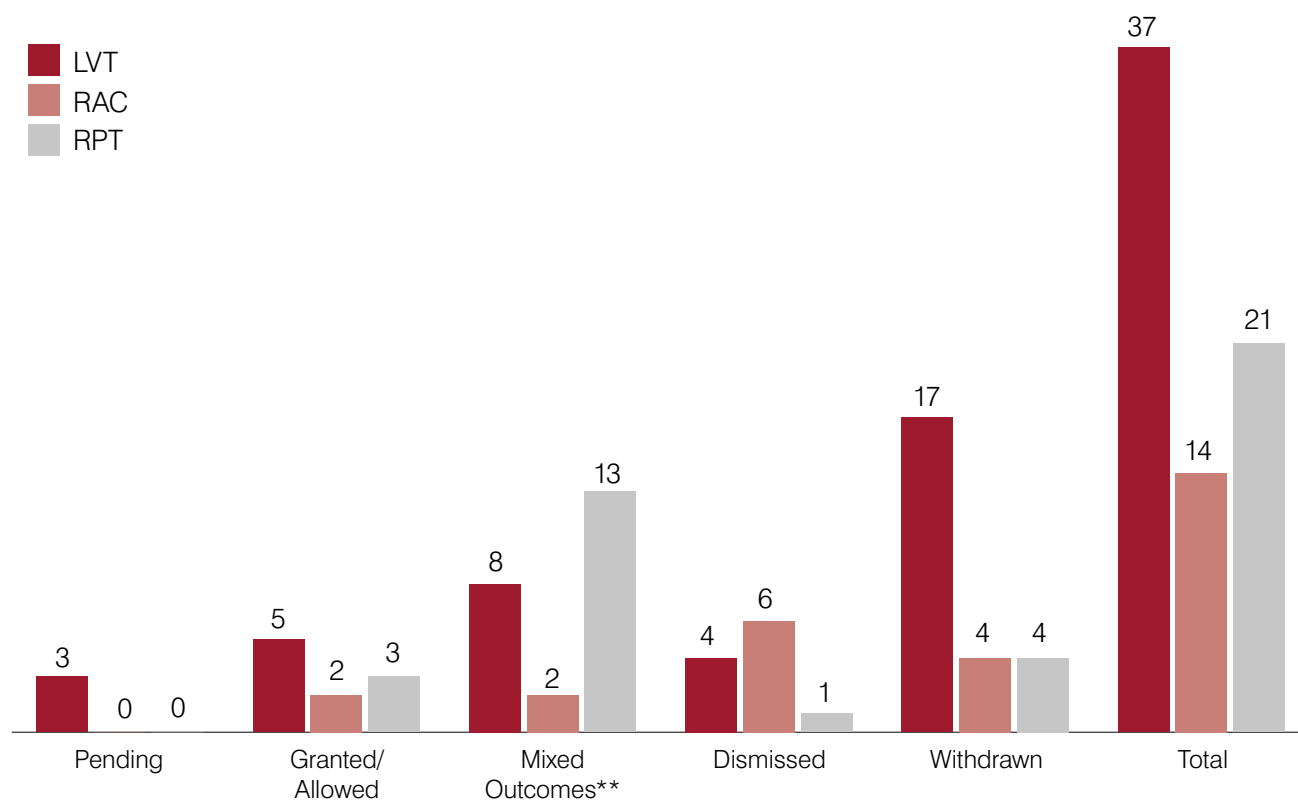
A finalised case is an application which has been completed either through:

- withdrawal by the applicant; or
- a hearing resulting in the Tribunal making a decision in respect of the application.



** Mixed outcomes – when part, but not all, of the application is granted.

2.4 The outcomes of the applications carried over from 2024-25



** Mixed outcomes – when part, but not all, of the application is granted.

2.5 Number of Applications received in 2025-26 by Type and Outcome

Leasehold Valuation Tribunals

Type	Carried Forward	Granted/ Allowed	Mixed outcomes	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Total
Leasehold Disputes						
Clara Sch 11	2					2
Clara Sec 168(4)	2	1			2	5
Clara Ch 1						
L&T Sec 20C						
L&T Part IV	1					1
L&T Sec 24	11	1			1	4
Leasehold Service Charge						
L&T Sec 27 A	10	1	1	16	3	31
L&T Sec 20 ZA	8	5			1	14
Leasehold Enfranchisement						
LRA Sec 21(1)(ba)						
LRA Sec 21(1)(a)	1				1	2
LRH&UD – leasehold renewal	2	1			1	4
LRH&UD – Missing Landlord	1	1				2
LRH&UD – Costs	1					1
LRH&UD – Enfranchisement						
Collective Enfranchisement	1					1
Tenants Association						
L&T Sec 29						
Other						
LRH&UD Sec 21						
Estate Charges						
LVT Fees waiver						
LRA Sec 15	1	1			1	3
Total	32	11	1	16	10	70

*Please refer to section 2.2 for full titles of applications.

Rent Assessment Committees

Type	Carried Forward	Granted/ Allowed	Mixed outcomes	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Total
Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016	10	2	6	2	4	24
Fair Rents	2		3		1	6
Total	12	2	9	2		30

Leasehold Valuation Tribunals

Type	Carried Forward	Granted/ Allowed	Mixed outcomes	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Total
Management Orders						
Management orders						
Empty dwelling Management Orders						
Rent Repayment Orders and Rent stopping Orders	9	5		2	4	20
Temporary exemption						
Overcrowding						
HMO decisions	16					16
Refusal to grant license (s.27)	2					2
Improvement notices Prohibition orders	5				1	6
Local Authority Recovery of expenses						
Fees waiver						
Mobile Homes:						
Section 7(4)(b)						
Section 12(2)					2	2
Section 14(1)						

Type	Carried Forward	Granted/ Allowed	Mixed outcomes	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Total
Sections 17(2) & 23(1)						
Sections 21(9) & 23(1)						
Sections 22(7) & 23(1)						
Section 28(2)						
Section 29(6)						
Section 30(5)						
Section 33(6)(c)						
Section 49(5)						
Section 50(2)						
Section 50(3)(a) or 50(3)(b)						
Section 54	3					3
Sch 2 Ch 2 Para 7(1)(a)						
Sch 2 Ch 2 Paras 5, 6, 7(1)(b)						
Sch 2 Ch2 Para 10(3)						
Sch 2 Ch2 Para 13(3)						
Sch 2 Ch 4 Para 42(8)						
Sch 2 Ch 2 Paras 14(1)&(2)						
Sch 2 Ch 2 Paras 14(3)						
Sch 2 Ch 2 Paras 17(1)(b) & 17(6)(a) –	46	1		1		48
Sch 2 Ch 2 Para 18(1)(a)(iii)						
Sch2 Ch 2 Paras 17(15) & (16)						
Sec 52(9) & (10) and Regulation 10(1) MHR						

Type	Carried Forward	Granted/ Allowed	Mixed outcomes	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Total
Sec 52(9) & (10) and Regulation 17(1) MHR						
Total	81	6	0	3	7	97

During 2025-26 there were 45 hearings in RPT Wales. Hearings are when a panel convene to hear evidence from the parties relevant to that application:

There were 30 paper conferences which took place. Paper conferences are when the panel convene without the parties present to make a decision.

Reviews and onward appeals

Applications for a review of a Tribunal decision can be made by parties on limited grounds.

Leasehold Valuation Tribunal and Residential Property Tribunal parties may apply to the Tribunal for leave to appeal to the Upper Tribunal if they think that the Tribunal's decision is wrong on a point of law. Rent Assessment Committees may apply directly to the Upper Tribunal.

There were 2 appeal applications during 2025-26. All appeal requests were refused. None were granted to appeal to Upper Tribunal. We are not aware of any appeals being made to the Upper Tribunal.

Achievement against key performance indicators

To monitor how effectively services are delivered, we have key performance indicators aimed at measuring two key aspects of our business; the speed of our service and the quality of service through customer satisfaction.

To measure the speed of our service, we have a series of primary performance indicators based on the time taken to process an application – from receipt to the Hearing or disposal.

To measure customer satisfaction, we used an indicator that is derived from periodic customer surveys issued with Tribunal decisions.

Speed of our service

Target: 95% of applications registered or pre-registration query dealt with within 10 working days of receipt of Application form	→	Target achieved in 100% of cases
Target: 95% of all correspondence responded to within 10 working days of receipt	→	Target achieved in 97% of cases
Target: 95% of hearings listed within 40 working days of registration	→	Target achieved in 95% of cases
Target: 100% of notice of hearing issued within 20 working days of the hearing	→	Target achieved in 100% of cases
Target: 90% of decisions issued within 30 working days of hearing	→	Target achieved in 80% of cases
Target: 95% of applications discharged within 18 months	→	Target achieved in 95% of cases

Complaints

The Tribunal received two formal complaints regarding the administration process during 2025-26.

The Annual Report for the Welsh Language Tribunal

Judge Betsan Criddle KC – President of the Welsh Language Tribunal

Introduction

1. I am pleased to present my second annual report as President of the Welsh Language Tribunal.
2. This year has been extremely interesting. Although the number of cases dealt with by the Tribunal is small, they raise important points about the meaning and scope of the Standards. We continue to schedule virtual and face-to-face hearings, which allow us to combine the effectiveness of new technology in appropriate cases, with face-to-face hearings when the need arises.
3. In this context, I am pleased to have the opportunity to welcome four new Lay Members to the Tribunal. I am sure they will make a valuable contribution to our work. A warm welcome to the Reverend Wynne Roberts, Mariel Jones, Bill Brereton and Owain Studley.
4. All Members and administrative staff continue to work closely together to ensure that our work proceeds smoothly. I look forward to continuing the important work of the Tribunal in the year ahead.

Tribunal Overview

Legal Basis

5. The Welsh Language Tribunal is a statutory tribunal established under section 120 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 ('the Measure'). The Tribunal's function is to decide on appeals against the Welsh Language Commissioner's ('the Commissioner') decisions in relation to Welsh Language Standards.

Function

6. The Measure enables the Tribunal to hear the following:
 - Appeals against the Commissioner's decisions in terms of imposing Standards on bodies and officers exercising functions or providing public services in Wales.
 - Appeals by a person, against whom a complaint has been made, against determinations by the Commissioner, at the end of an investigation, regarding failure to comply with the requirement of a Standard.
 - Appeals by a complainant against a determination by the Commissioner, at the end of an investigation, that a person, against whom a complaint had been made, had not failed to comply with a Standard.
 - Appeals against enforcement actions taken by the Commissioner.

- Appeals against evidence notices issued by the Commissioner during an investigation.
- Reviews of decisions on behalf of the Commissioner not to investigate a complaint (or to discontinue an investigation without reaching a decision).

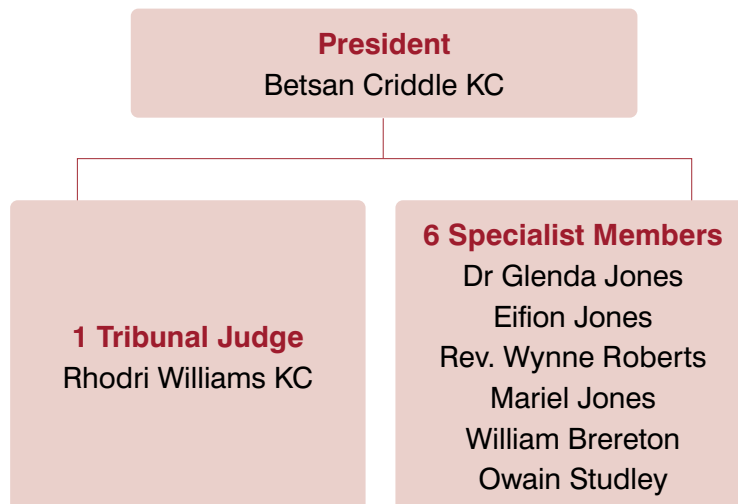
Rules

7. The Tribunal operates according to its procedural rules – The Welsh Language Tribunal Rules 2015 ('the Rules'). The purpose of these Rules is to ensure that all cases heard by the Tribunal are treated fairly, consistently and promptly. They ensure that everyone who comes before the Tribunal understands precisely the steps they must take so that the facts of the dispute and the relevant arguments can be presented effectively to the Tribunal. They also ensure that every party to the case understands the arguments of the other parties and can respond to them.
8. The Tribunal's Rules explain:
 - The basic principles and define key terms used by the Tribunal.
 - How Tribunal Members are chosen for each case.
 - How to start an application with the Tribunal.
 - What needs to be done to prepare a case for a hearing.
 - The Tribunal's powers to manage cases, including directions it can give to the parties before a hearing.
 - How hearings work and how formal decisions are made.
 - What happens after a decision, including arrangements to review decisions or appeals to the High Court.
 - Other administrative details, like recording decisions, submitting documents, and setting deadlines.

Process

9. The Tribunal President is authorised, under section 124 of the Measure and rule 4 of the Rules, to issue Practice Directions to clarify Tribunal practice and procedure. The Practice Directions provide practical advice on how to interpret and apply the Rules.
10. There are 4 Practice Directions which relate to:
 - Practice Direction 1 – Commencing a case
 - Practice Direction 2 – The use of the Tribunal's languages
 - Practice Direction 3 – Exercising the functions of the Tribunal
 - Practice Direction 4 – Applications to the Tribunal to cancel an evidence notice.
11. Full information and guidance about the Tribunal and its procedures, are provided on it's website, at <https://welshlanguagetribunal.gov.wales/guidance-and-forms> and <https://welshlanguagetribunal.gov.wales/practice-directions>

Tribunal Structure



Business Priorities for 2026-27

12. It is important that the Tribunal continues to develop in order to deliver the best possible service for our users. This section is about how the Tribunal will build on its achievements through focusing on business priorities and our commitment to our users.
13. Our priorities over the next year are as follows:
 - To plan and provide training for all members.
 - To continue to monitor and update the Welsh Language Tribunal's website.
 - To provide a high-quality service.
 - To fine-tune how the Tribunal works, based on the experiences of dealing with cases, in order to ensure work of the highest quality when considering and deciding on cases.
 - To conduct face-to-face hearings where possible but to continue to hold virtual hearings if doing so is preferable and fair in relation to the case and the parties.
 - To continue to develop information to be included as part of the original application form, in order to improve case efficiency.

Welsh Language Tribunal

Case Statistics and Key Performance Indicators

Numbers and statistics

The Measure enables an individual or an organisation to appeal to the Tribunal on the following matters:

- Section 58 – Determination by the Commissioner that the requirement to comply with a standard (or to comply with a standard in a particular respect) is not unreasonable or disproportionate.
- Section 95(2) – Determination by the Commissioner that there has been a failure to comply with the requirement of a standard.
- Schedule 10, paragraphs 9 and 10 – appeals against evidence notices issued by the Commissioner during an investigation.
- Section 95(4) – Enforcement action which the Commissioner has decided to take.
- Section 99(2) – Determination by the Commissioner that there has not been a failure to comply with a standard.
- Section 103 – Determination by the Commissioner not to carry out an investigation into a complaint (or to discontinue an investigation).

Applications

3 new applications were received during 2025-26 and the Tribunal has also dealt with 1 application carried over from 2024-25. 'Carried over' in this context means the case was received before 2025-26, and carried over to 2025-26 as the application was not completed before the end of the year in which the application was received.

Type of application	Number received in 2025-26	Carried over from 2024-25	Carried over to 2026-27
Section 58	-	-	-
Section 95(2)	-	-	-
Section 95(4)	-	-	-
Section 99(2)	-	-	-
Section 103	3	1	-
Total	3	1	0

How cases were resolved in 2025-26

Cases under Sections 58, 95(2), 95(4) or 99(2)	
Withdrawn	-
Appeal Rejected	-
Appeal Accepted	-

Cases under Sections 103	
Permission to make an application was refused	3
Permission to make an application was granted	1
Appeal rejected after permission granted	-
Appeal accepted after permission granted	1

Hearings

During 2025-26 the Tribunal held:

- 2 panel hearings.

Internal reviews and appeals to the High Court

Internal review of the Tribunal's decision

A party may apply to the Tribunal to review its decision on the grounds:

- that the decision made is incorrect due to a significant error on the part of the Tribunal's administration;
- that a party who had the right to be heard at the hearing, but who failed to appear or be represented, had a good and sufficient reason for not attending, or
- that there is an obvious and important error in the decision.

An application for a review of the Tribunal's determination must be made in writing, stating the grounds, no later than 28 days after the date that the decision was sent to the parties.

During the period of this report, no applications for an internal review of a decision were received.

Appeals to the High Court

A party, with the permission of the Tribunal or the High Court, may appeal to the High Court on a legal point arising from a determination of the Tribunal.

The Tribunal must receive your application for permission to appeal to the High Court within 28 calendar days from the date the parties were notified of the Tribunal's decision. It is up to the person considering an appeal to take their own legal advice.

During the period of this report, no applications were received for permission to appeal to the High Court against a determination of the Tribunal.

Complaints

The Tribunal did not receive a complaint during the period of this report.

Effectiveness of our service

The Tribunal dealt with four applications in 2025-26.

Of the new applications received in 2025-26:

Case 1: application under section 103.

Permission was refused within 14 days of receipt of the application.

Case 2: application under section 103.

Permission was refused within 11 days of receipt of the application.

Case 3: application under section 103.

Permission was refused within 11 days of receipt of the application.

In the case of the application transferred from 2024-25:

Case 4: application under section 103.

Permission was refused within 22 days of receipt of the application. Permission was granted within 13.7 weeks of receipt of an application to reconsider (8 days following the hearing of the reconsideration application). The substantive application was granted within 29.1 weeks of granting permission (17 days after the hearing of the substantive application).