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Press Notice

Supreme Court publishes first Annual Report and Accounts

The Supreme Court, which became the UK's highest court in October 2009, has published its first [Annual Report and Accounts](#). This covers the first six months since the Court's establishment (from October 1 2009 – 31 March 2010.)

Statistics on casework and information on some of the more interesting and high profile cases that have come before the Court, as well as the decisions reached by the Justices, are contained in the report.

It outlines the story of the Court's establishment, constitutional significance, governance and staffing, as well as the core objectives of the Court in supporting the Judges in the administration of justice and the determination of appeals. There is also information on administrative and financial matters in the Accounts section.

The Court has taken steps to engage with the wider public in ways which were simply not possible as the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords. Information on the Court's engagement efforts is detailed. In the first six months since the Court opened, it received more than 20,000 visitors and provided tours to nearly 100 groups.

As the final court of appeal for all UK civil cases and for all its criminal cases with the exception of Scotland – maintaining relationships with all these jurisdictions is a key strategic objective. A section of the report explains how the Court has sought to maintain relationships with judges in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland and with all the devolved governments and legislatures in the different parts of the UK. Meanwhile another section outlines how the Court has built appropriate international relationships with courts in Europe, the Commonwealth and other countries.

Lord Phillips, President of the Supreme Court, said: "As a result of the move we, and importantly all court users and visitors, enjoy greatly enhanced facilities over those which were available to us within the constraints of the House of Lords.

"As Justices, we are clear that more people have been sitting in on our cases and, through their visits to the Court, learning more about our legal system."

Jenny Rowe, Chief Executive of the Court, said: “I have great pleasure in presenting this report which covers an exciting and challenging six months. The creation of the Court marked a significant constitutional development.

“There is greater visibility of Judges and staff, but also significant opportunities for engagement with lawyers, students, and the wider public to enhance knowledge and understanding of the United Kingdom’s judicial and legal systems.”

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