



Reference number: 08/2010

Date: 29 July 2010

Press Notice

A Supremely successful first legal year

Around 40,000 visitors, including tours for nearly 190 school and student groups, enhanced media engagement with interest from all over the world and justice at the highest level being more accessible than ever before. These are some of the highlights of the UK's Supreme Court's first full legal year.

Since its establishment on 1 October 2009 to the end of the Trinity Term (30 July), the Court heard a total of 67 appeals and gave 62 judgments.

In addition to sitting in open court to hear substantive appeals Justices also sat in panels of three to decide on applications for permission to appeal. The Court received 206 permission applications during its first year in operation. Of those decided so far, 69 were granted, 81 refused and 15 had other results including withdrawal.

A key role for the Court is to educate as well as adjudicate, and it has its own purpose built exhibition space with interactive displays for people to find out about the Court and the UK's legal systems. Visitors have included students, teachers, magistrates and groups associated with the law.

The Court is unique in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland in that its proceedings can be and are routinely filmed and footage made available to broadcasters. A number of high profile judgments have been broadcast live, with summaries from members of the Court.

The Court's website, www.supremecourt.gov.uk has built up a wide audience and contains considerable information about the Court, its Justices and judgments. Since the Court came into existence, the website has received around 19,000 distinct visitors a month, from virtually every country in the world.

Lord Phillips, President of the Court, said: "This has been an exciting period for the Court. We have heard a number of interesting and important cases, some of which have attracted attention around the world.

"As Justices of the Court we are visible in a way that the Law Lords never were. I am pleased with the information that we now impart to schools, colleges and the wider public. We have made important changes to the way we deliver judgments so that the public can readily understand what we have decided. While we are hearing cases the public seats are now almost always filled."

Lord Hope, Deputy President of the Court, said: "Our move from the House of Lords to our own building in Parliament Square has proved to be good both for the Court and for the public. Because

the Court can make its own rules, it is now much more transparent and accessible than the Appellate Committee ever was or could hope to be. And the facilities that the Court can provide for all court users and the public are far better and more accessible than those that were previously available. These are very real benefits, which we will do all we can to sustain in the year that lies ahead.”

Jenny Rowe, the Court’s Chief Executive, said: “This has been an exciting and challenging year. We now have in place an effective and robust administration to support the UK’s highest judges in their work. Considerable steps have already been taken to engage with the wider public, with lawyers and students.

“The educational role of the Court is an important one and we are committed to building on our efforts so far in this area as much as possible in the coming months and years.”

Ends

Contacts:

Sian Lewis
Tel: 020 7960 1886
sian.lewis@supremecourt.gsi.gov.uk

Robert Boyland
Tel: 020 7960 1887
robert.boyland@supremecourt.gsi.gov.uk

STATISTICS

UKSC Statistics: October 2009 – July 2010	
Permission to Appeal applications received	206*
Permission to Appeal applications granted	69*
Permission to Appeal applications refused	81*
Permission to Appeal applications other result	15*
Permission to Appeal fee remissions	7
Permission to Appeal fee deferred	8
Number of Appeals heard	67
Number of Appeals Allowed	27*
Number of Appeals dismissed	22*
Number of Appeals other result	2
Number of Appeals referred to ECJ	3
Number of Judgments given	62

*Figures to Friday 23/7/10

UKSC Visitors Breakdown (until 23/7/10)

	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10
Public	4000	3358	3404	2324	2940	4315	3694	3520	5563	5128
Case Lawyers	545	400	150	145	200	490	100	320	482	506
Total:	4545	3758	3554	2469	3140	4805	3794	3840	6045	5634
Organised Groups	8	10	8	11	12	20	12	11	25	15
Organised Schools/Students	5	12	10	11	19	45	17	24	19	26
Ad Hoc Groups	20	30	20	10	12	8	9	2	9	0
Blue Badge Groups	0	1	4	2	3	4	1	2	1	1
Total:	33	53	42	34	46	77	39	39	54	42
Average visitors/day	206	179	169	143	157	208	190	185	242	301

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

Parliament Square London SW1P 3BD T: 020 7960 1886/1887 F: 020 7960 1901 www.supremecourt.gov.uk