



Judicial Salaries and Allowances Determination 2015

Pursuant to sections 12B(1) and 19 of the Remuneration Authority Act 1977 and,—

- (a) in relation to the Chief Justice and the other Judges of the Supreme Court, the President of the Court of Appeal and the other Judges of the Court of Appeal, and the Chief High Court Judge and the other Judges of the High Court, to section 9A(1)(a) and (b) of the Judicature Act 1908:
- (b) in relation to the Chief District Court Judge, the Principal Family Court Judge, the Principal Youth Court Judge, the Principal Environment Judge, and the other District Court Judges, to section 6(1)(a) and (b) of the District Courts Act 1947:
- (c) in relation to the Chief Judge of the Employment Court and the other Judges of the Employment Court, to section 206(1)(a) and (b) of the Employment Relations Act 2000:
- (d) in relation to the Chief Judge of the Maori Land Court, the Deputy Chief Judge of the Maori Land Court, and the other Judges of the Maori Land Court, to section 13(1)(a) and (b) of Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993:
- (e) in relation to the Associate Judges of the High Court, to section 26F(1)(a) and (b) of the Judicature Act 1908:
- (f) in relation to the chief coroner, to section 110(1)(b) of the Coroners Act 2006,—

the Remuneration Authority makes the following determination (to which is appended an explanatory memorandum).

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Determination

- 1 Title**
This determination is the Judicial Salaries and Allowances Determination 2015.
- 2 Commencement**
This determination is deemed to have come into force on 1 October 2014.
- 3 Expiry**
This determination expires on 30 September 2015.
- 4 Salaries of judicial officers**
The salaries payable to the judicial officers specified in the Schedule must be paid at the respective rates set out in that schedule.
- 5 Principal allowances of judicial officers**
Principal allowances for general expenses must be paid to the judicial officers specified in the Schedule at the respective rates set out in that schedule.
- 6 Principal allowance of Chief High Court Judge for secondary residential accommodation in Wellington**
(1) This clause applies if the Chief High Court Judge—
 - (a) has his or her primary place of residence in Auckland; and

- (b) owns or rents on a continuous basis residential accommodation in Wellington (the **secondary residential accommodation**); and
- (c) uses the secondary residential accommodation in lieu of overnight accommodation.
- (2) If this clause applies, the Chief High Court Judge must be paid, as a principal allowance for the secondary residential accommodation, the amount of the actual and reasonable expenses incurred by him or her in relation to that accommodation.
- (3) The maximum yearly rate of the principal allowance payable on and after 1 October 2014 is \$20,000.

7 Principal allowance of District Court Judge who is chief coroner

If a District Court Judge holds the office of chief coroner, he or she must be paid a principal allowance at the rate of \$10,000 per annum, in addition to the salary and principal allowance set out in the Schedule.

8 Revocation

The Judicial Salaries and Allowances Determination 2013 (SR 2013/498) is revoked.

Schedule
Salaries and principal allowances

cls 4, 5

Judicial officer	Yearly rate of salary payable on and after 1 October 2014 (\$)	Yearly principal allowance for general expenses payable on and after 1 October 2014 (\$)
Chief Justice	504,000	7,900
Judge of the Supreme Court	473,000	6,500
President of the Court of Appeal	473,000	6,500
Judge of the Court of Appeal	444,000	5,600
Chief High Court Judge	442,500	5,600
Judge of the High Court	422,500	5,600

Judicial officer	Yearly rate of salary payable on and after 1 October 2014 (\$)	Yearly principal allowance for general expenses payable on and after 1 October 2014 (\$)
Associate Judge of the High Court	322,500	4,100
Chief District Court Judge	422,500	5,000
Principal Family Court Judge	367,000	5,000
Principal Youth Court Judge	346,500	5,000
Principal Environment Judge	346,500	5,000
District Court Judge	322,500	4,100
Chief Judge of the Employment Court	401,500	5,600
Judge of the Employment Court	363,000	4,700
Chief Judge of the Maori Land Court	367,000	5,000
Deputy Chief Judge of the Maori Land Court	346,500	4,700
Judge of the Maori Land Court	322,500	4,100

Dated at Wellington this 21st day of January 2015.

John Errington,
Chairman.

A Foulkes,
Member.

Explanatory memorandum

This memorandum is not part of the determination, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This determination, which is deemed to have come into force on 1 October 2014 and expires on 30 September 2015, sets the salaries

and principal allowances for the Judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the High Court and District Court benches (including the salary and allowance of a District Court Judge who currently holds the judicial office of chief coroner), the Employment Court, and the Maori Land Court.

The Remuneration Authority (the **Authority**) is required to have regard to the following when setting judicial remuneration and allowances:

- the need to achieve and maintain fair relativity with the levels of remuneration received elsewhere; and
- the need to be fair both—
 - to the persons or group of persons whose remuneration is being determined; and
 - to the taxpayer; and
- the need to recruit and retain competent persons.

In addition, the Authority must take into account—

- the requirements of the position concerned; and
- the conditions of service enjoyed by the persons whose remuneration is being determined and those enjoyed by the persons or members of the group of persons whose remuneration and conditions of employment are, in the opinion of the Authority, comparable with those of the persons or members of the group of persons whose remuneration is being determined.

The Authority must also take into account any prevailing adverse economic conditions, based on evidence from an authoritative source, and may determine the remuneration at a rate lower than it would otherwise have determined.

In setting the remuneration for the judiciary for the year from 1 October 2014, the information that the Authority considered included—

- submissions made by the Chief Justice, Appeal Court Judges, High Court Judges, Employment Court Judges, and District Court Judges; and
- remuneration data made available to it in respect of private sector legal remuneration of groups with comparable skills and experience and from which groups it can be expected that Judges of the High Court could be recruited; and

- remuneration data made available to it in respect of private sector legal remuneration of groups with comparable skills and experience and from which groups it can be expected that District Court Judges could be recruited; and
- growth in the New Zealand Consumers Price Index and Labour Cost Index over the previous year; and
- information on the recruitment of Judges from a range of sources, including the Attorney-General, the Chief Justice, and Heads of Benches; and
- remuneration data for senior positions in the public sector; and
- conditions of employment enjoyed by members of the judiciary; and
- prevailing economic conditions.

Against that background, the Authority has made an increase of approximately 3.5% in salaries for Judges of the Supreme, Appeal, and High Courts, and an increase of approximately 4.0% for Judges of the District, Employment, and Maori Land Courts, and for Associate Judges of the High Court. The slightly different rates reflect the different movements in remuneration in the pools from which the different groups of Judges are recruited. The salary of the Chief District Court Judge has been adjusted by the same percentage as the salaries of the Judges of the higher courts, reflecting the practice of recent years that the salary of that position is set at the same rate as that of a High Court Judge.

The salary increases for the Judges in this determination are broadly in line with the adjustments made by the Authority in 2014 in respect of other groups and senior positions in the public sector for which it sets remuneration.

No change has been made to the yearly principal allowance for general expenses. With the assistance of the judiciary, the Authority will embark on a review of this allowance in early 2015.

2015/6 **Judicial Salaries and Allowances
Determination 2015**

Issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2012.
Date of notification in *Gazette*: 29 January 2015.
