



HMCTS has introduced an Activity Based Costing (ABC) Model for magistrates' courts. HMCTS will be using this model as a basis for determining the level of sitting days that should be needed across the magistrates' courts to dispose of cases.

The number of magistrates available to sit locally should reflect the level of sitting days required by the ABC model. The aim is that there should be sufficient magistrates to cover the business needs of local areas, whilst ensuring that magistrates are able to sit sufficient days to maintain their competences, without sitting for excessive days. These plans should also take account of District Judge (MC) sitting days, together with resignations, retirements and transfers and the need to ensure that there are sufficient candidates to act as chairs.

HMCTS will advise the Advisory Committee, via the Secretary to the Committee, how many magistrates are required. The number of magistrates required will be determined by the Presiding Judges and Delivery Directors in each region as part of a single annual judicial resource exercise which will also consider the deployment and recruitment requirements of the District Judges (Magistrates' Courts). This will ensure that there is a single assessment of the recruitment requirements for all the Judiciary in Magistrates' Courts.

The Secretaries to Advisory Committees, in their role as Justices' Clerk, will have responsibility for co-ordinating the annual judicial resource exercise and will use the data gathered to inform decisions of Presiding Judges and Delivery Directors. As part of the annual judicial resource exercise Advisory Committees will be invited to make observations on the data gathered by the Secretary/Justices' Clerk. Advisory Committees will undertake recruitment campaigns for magistrates which aim to recommend suitable candidates for appointment up to the figures advised by HMCTS.

The committee should ensure that any observations they have in relation to recruitment numbers are provided to the Secretary well in advance of the annual exercise.