

## Annex 1

### Statistics on the numbers of criminal trials in Magistrates' Courts, the District Court and the Court of First Instance

(as at June 30, 2020)

	Number of trials of indictable offences						Total number of criminal trials		
	Conducted in English			Conducted in Chinese			2018	2019	2020 (January to June) (Note 4)
	2018	2019	2020 (January to June)	2018	2019	2020 (January to June)			
Magistrates' Courts (Note 1)							5,567	5,604	1,350
District Court (Note 2)	91	72	18	239	261	66	330	333	84
Court of First Instance (Note 3)	100	100	19	65	42	6	165	142	25

#### Note 1:

The total number of criminal trials in Magistrates' Courts include trials of indictable and/or summary offences. The Judiciary and the Department of Justice do not maintain the number of trials of indictable offences in the Magistrates' Courts.

#### Note 2:

The number of trials in the District Court includes trials involving summary offences. According to section 88 of the Magistrates Ordinance (Cap. 227), if a defendant accused of an indictable offence is also accused of any offence triable summarily only, the summary offence may, together with the indictable offence concerned, be transferred to the District Court.

#### Note 3:

The number of trials in the Court of First Instance includes cases where the trial has commenced and jury empanelling is eventually not required, e.g. where the defendant chooses to enter a plea of guilty immediately after the trial judge has heard evidence as to the way in which the confession statement was obtained (i.e. the so-called *voir dire* procedure).

#### Note 4:

The number of Court hearings in the first half of 2020 was affected by public health considerations and contingency measures, including the General Adjourned Period.