



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

MEDIA STATEMENT

This media statement was originally published on 10 October 2021. It was updated on 14 October.

Operation of the Courts at Higher Alert Levels

Northland, Auckland and areas of the Waikato are currently at Alert Level 3. The rest of the country is at Alert Level 2.

The guidance in this media statement will remain in place until a change is made to the alert levels.

Auckland jury trials suspended for rest of October

The Chief Justice has announced that in order to provide some certainty to jurors, court participants, and the profession, no jury trials will be held for the month of October in Auckland.

Jury trials cannot be held during Alert Level 3, according to the [operating protocols](#) for the District Court and High Court.

Jurors who are summoned to attend court in Manukau District Court, Auckland District Court and the Auckland High Court during October are excused from attending.

Northland and Waikato operating under Alert Level 3 protocols

All courts in Northland and Waikato are operating to their Alert Level 3 protocols while those areas remain at Alert Level 3. Courts will operate to the extent they can by remote means as local conditions and capacity allow.

Jury trials in Northland and Waikato while under Alert Level 3

While all or part of the Northland and Waikato regions are at Alert Level 3, no new jury trials will commence in those regions.

Travel for court hearings across Alert Level 3 boundary

The Chief Justice has reiterated that hearings which necessitate travel across the Alert Level 3 boundary will only proceed if it is determined by the presiding judge that it is in the public interest to do so.

Any counsel or person who believes they need to travel across the boundary for court purposes should seek the direction of the presiding judge.

Travel will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the presiding judge.

The Ministry of Justice will provide detailed advice on the health and safety arrangements for those who are required to across alert level boundaries to attend court.

Media attendance at court at Alert Level 3

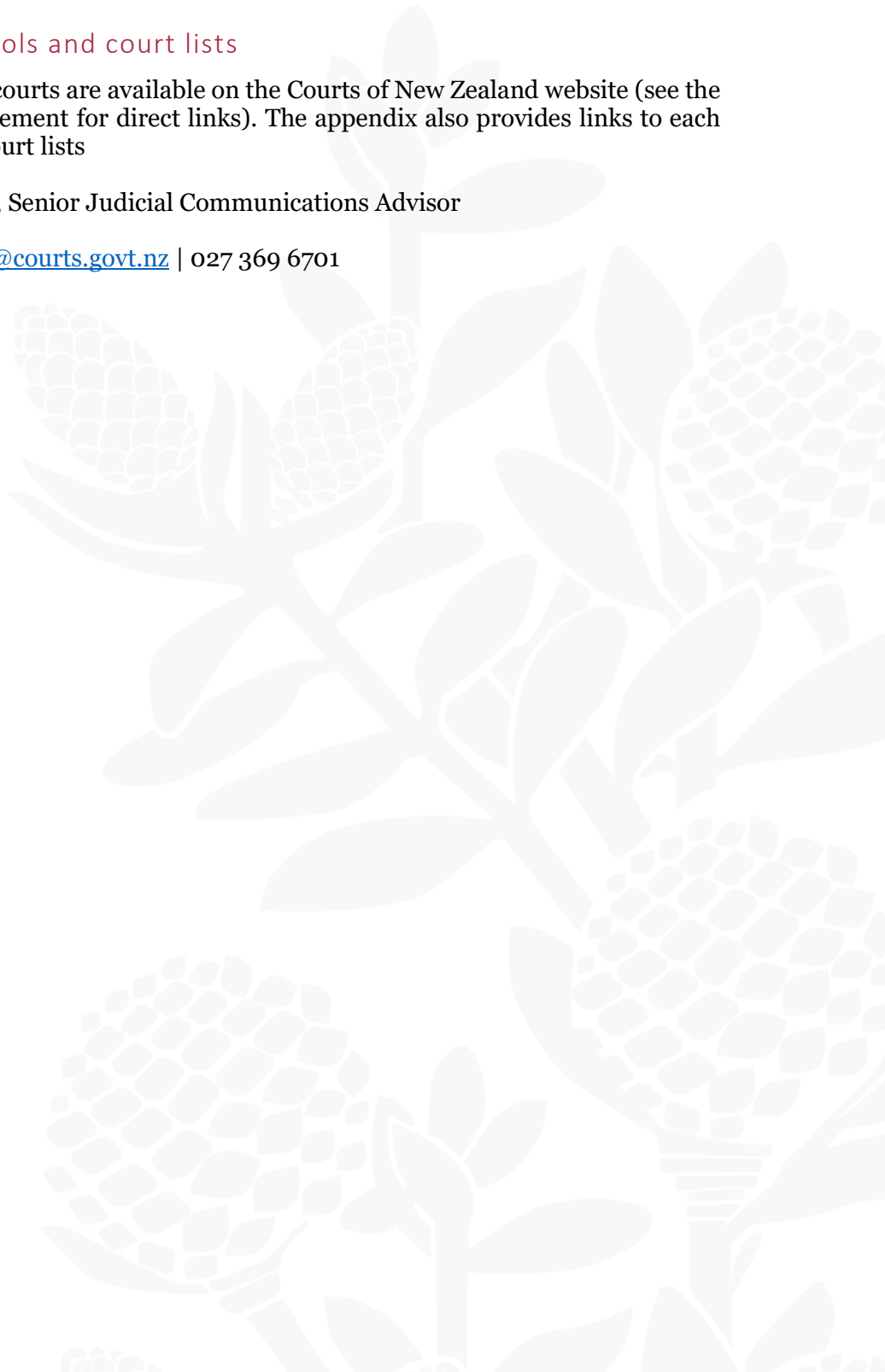
In the interests of health and safety, media are asked not to attend court in person during Alert Level 3 and instead to attend by remote viewing. See the Courts of New Zealand website for information on how to arrange this. If remote viewing is not available, please contact the registry concerned.

Court operating protocols and court lists

Operating protocols for all courts are available on the Courts of New Zealand website (see the appendix to this media statement for direct links). The appendix also provides links to each court's regularly updated court lists

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APPENDIX: COURT PROTOCOLS AND COURT LISTS BY COURT

Trial courts

High Court | Te Kōti Matua

[Daily list](#)

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

District Court | Te Kōti ā Rohe

Upcoming cases: ring 0800 COURTS (0800 268 787)

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Appellate courts

Supreme Court | Te Kōti Mana Nui

[Daily list](#)

[Upcoming cases](#)

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Court of Appeal | Te Kōti Pira

[Daily list](#)

[Upcoming cases](#)

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Summary Appeal Court | Te Kōti Whakawā Pira Whakaraupapa Kaimahi o Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Māori Appellate Court | Te Kooti Pira Māori

[Alert level operating protocol](#) (Māori Land Court | Te Kooti Whenua Māori protocol)

Specialist courts

Coroners Court | Te Kōti Kaitirotiro Matewhawhati

[Upcoming cases](#)

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Court Martial | Te Kōti Whakawā Kaimahi o Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Employment Court | Te Kōti Take Mahi

[Upcoming cases](#)

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Environment Court | Te Kōti Taiao

[Upcoming cases](#)

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Māori Land Court | Te Kooti Whenua Māori

[Alert level operating protocol](#)