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LORD CHIEF JUSTICE  
OF ENGLAND AND WALES



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SENIOR PRESIDENT  
OF TRIBUNALS

# Judicial Diversity Statistics 2015

Judicial Office Statistics Bulletin

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# Introduction

This bulletin provides an overview of the diversity of appointed judges in the courts and tribunals on 1 April 2015. Where a judge holds more than one appointment the statistics are compiled for the appointment considered to be their primary appointment, i.e. the appointment they hold most of the time.

This bulletin gives a summary of the results and commentary on the following characteristics:

- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Professional background
- Payment type

The accompanying tables give a more detailed breakdown of these characteristics.

Any feedback, questions or requests for further information about this statistical bulletin should be directed to the **contacts** given at the end of this report.

### Key Findings

- The overall percentage of female judges has increased in both the courts and tribunals from 1 April 2014 to 1 April 2015 from 24.5% to 25.2% in the courts and 43.0% to 43.8% in the tribunals.
- The percentage of female High Court Judges and Circuit Judges has increased between 1 April 2014 and 1 April 2015, from 17.9% to 19.8% and 20.5% to 22.8% respectively.
- More than half of all judges (55%) under 40 are female.
- The overall percentage of judges that identify as BME has remained steady at 7%.
- 12% of all judges under 50 that declared their ethnicity identify as BME.

# Diversity in the Courts

## Judges by gender

The number of judges in the courts on 1 April 2015 was 3238, of which 817 (25.2%) were female. This is an increase from 2014 when 24.5% of court judges were female. From figure 1, we see that the percentage of judges who are female tends to be higher in the fee paid positions than in the salaried positions.

This discrepancy can partly be explained due to the fact that there are a higher proportion of women in the younger age bands than the older age bands and also due to the increase in the percentage of women over time.

Figure 1

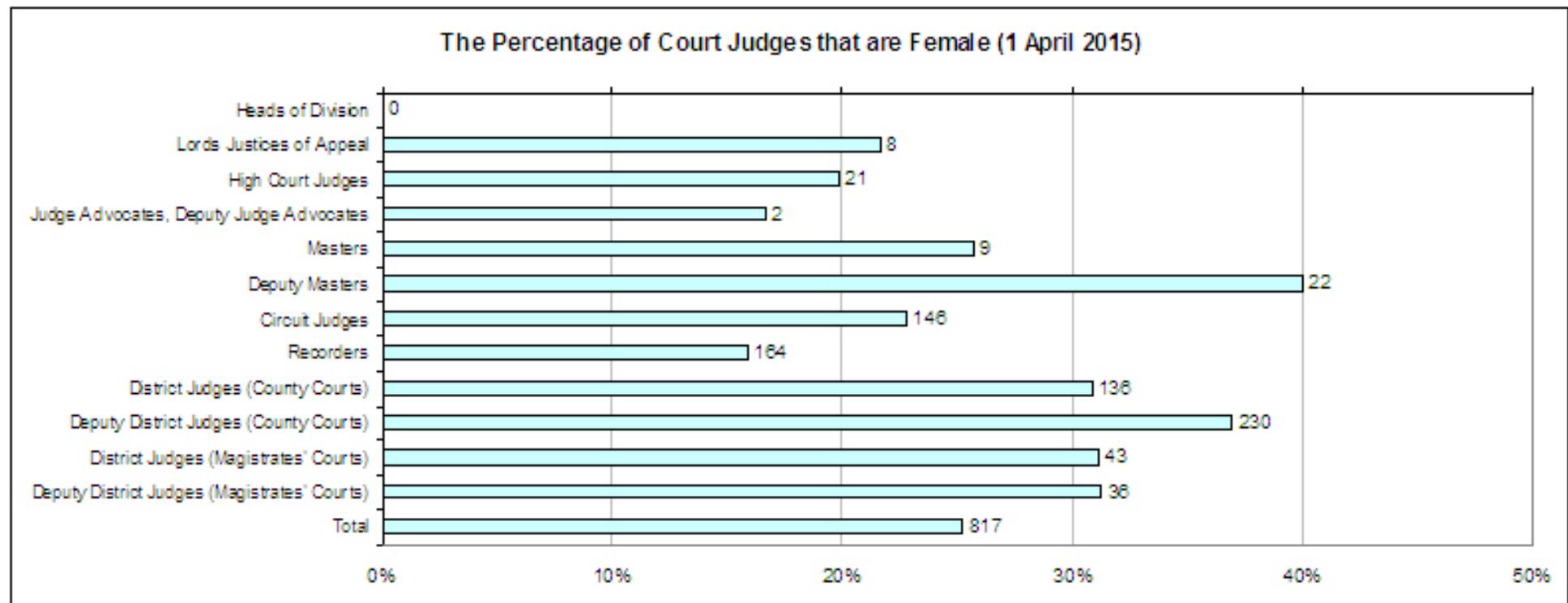


Figure 2 shows that there is a higher percentage of female judges in the younger age bands with 32 out of 60 (53.3%) judges in the under 40 age band being female.

In comparison 184 out of 1417 (13%) judges in the over 60 age band are female.

These figures suggest that the overall percentage of female judges will increase over time.

Figure 2

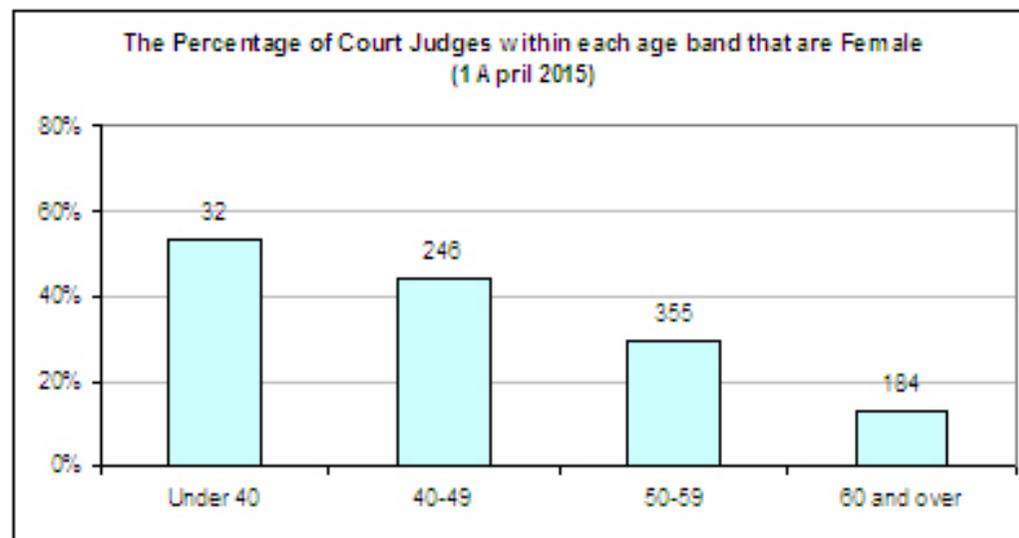


Figure 3

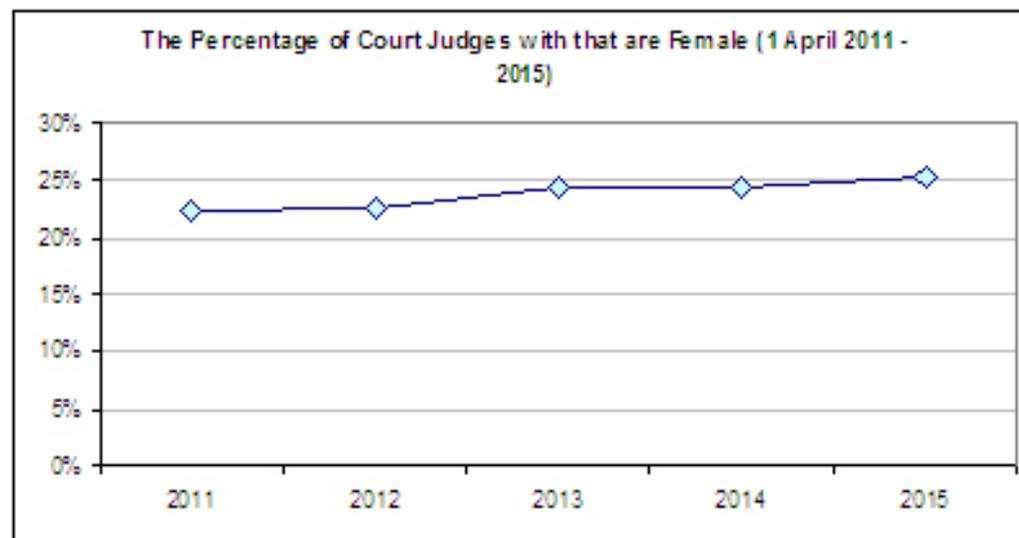


Figure 3 shows the percentage of court judges that are female on 1 April in each of the last 5 years.

It has gradually grown over each of the years with 824 out of 3694 (22.3%) court judges being female in 2011 compared to 817 out of 3238 (25.2%) in 2015.

Judges by ethnicity

Out of the 3238 judges in the courts there are 2686 (83%) judges for which the ethnicity is known. The percentage of judges whose ethnicity is known is up from 81.3% in 2012, this is a result of the Judicial Office collecting ethnicity data on all new appointments from May 2009.

Of the 2686 judges who declared their ethnicity there are 159 (5.9%) who declared their background as Black or Minority Ethnic (BME).

Figure 4

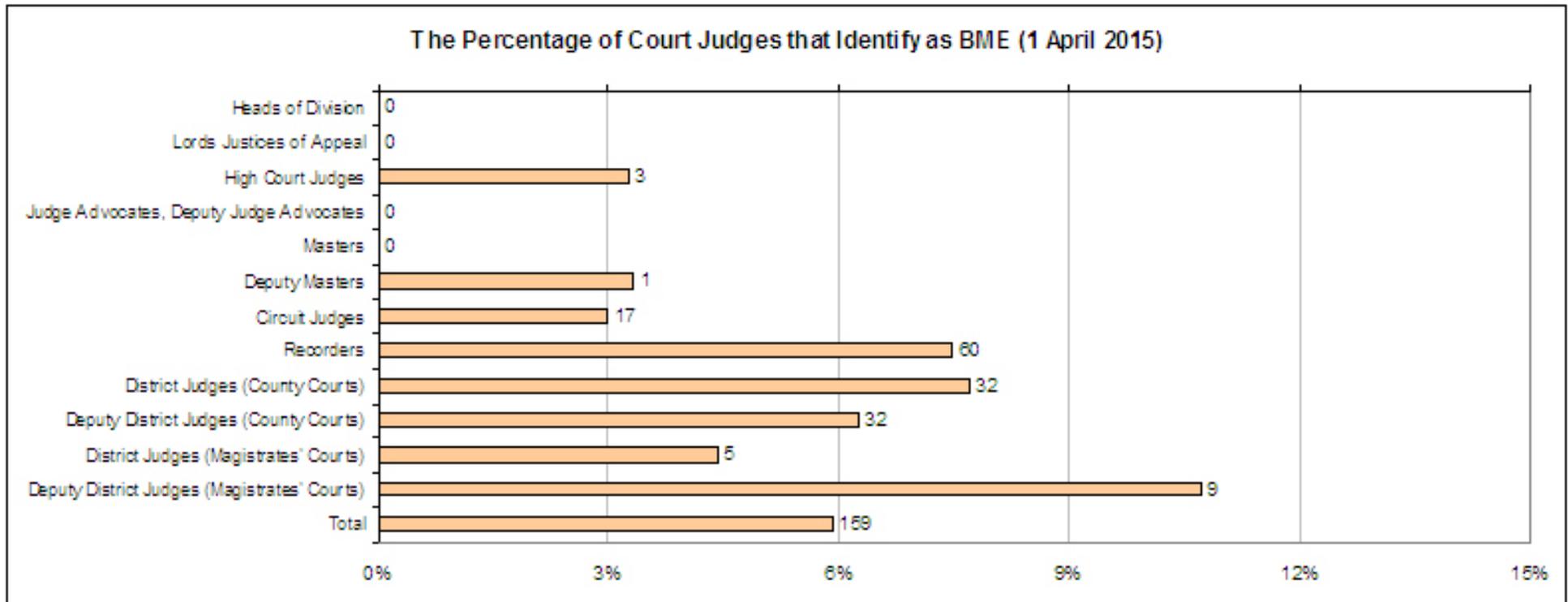


Figure 5 shows that the age band with the highest percentage of BME judges is the 40-49 age band where 11.3% of the judges are BME.

This is compared to the over 60 age band where just 2.5% of the judges are BME.

These figures suggest that the overall percentage of BME judges will increase over time.

Figure 5

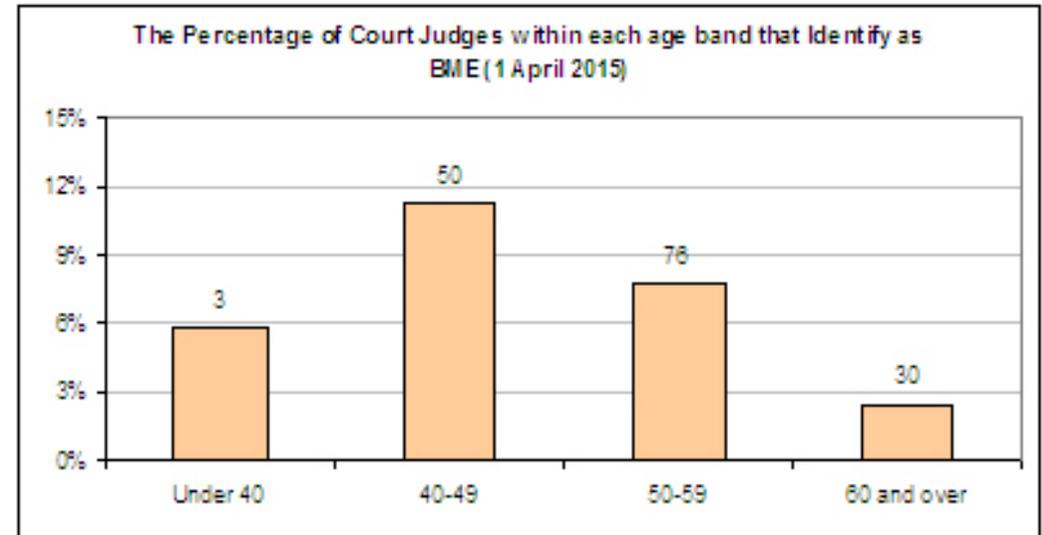


Figure 6

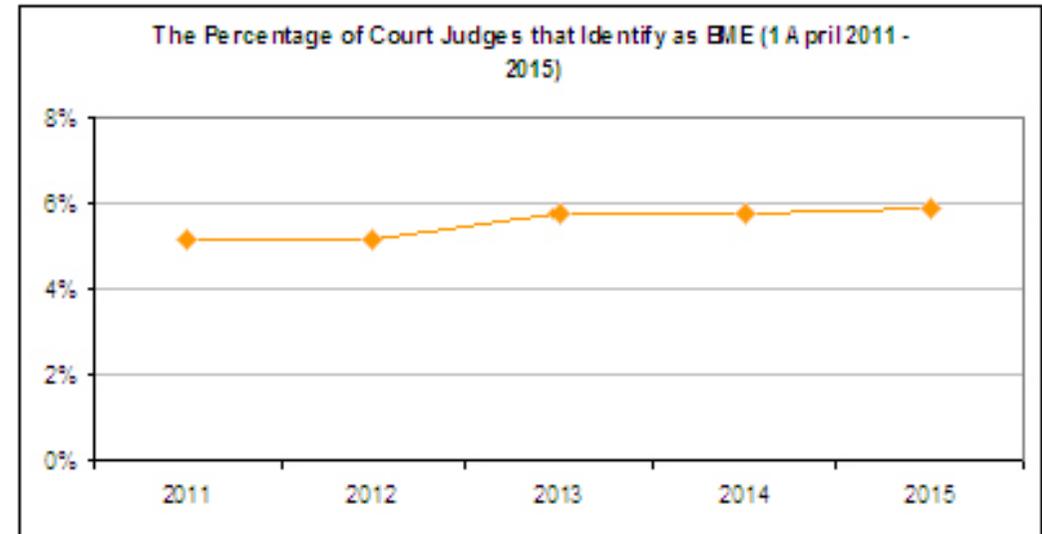


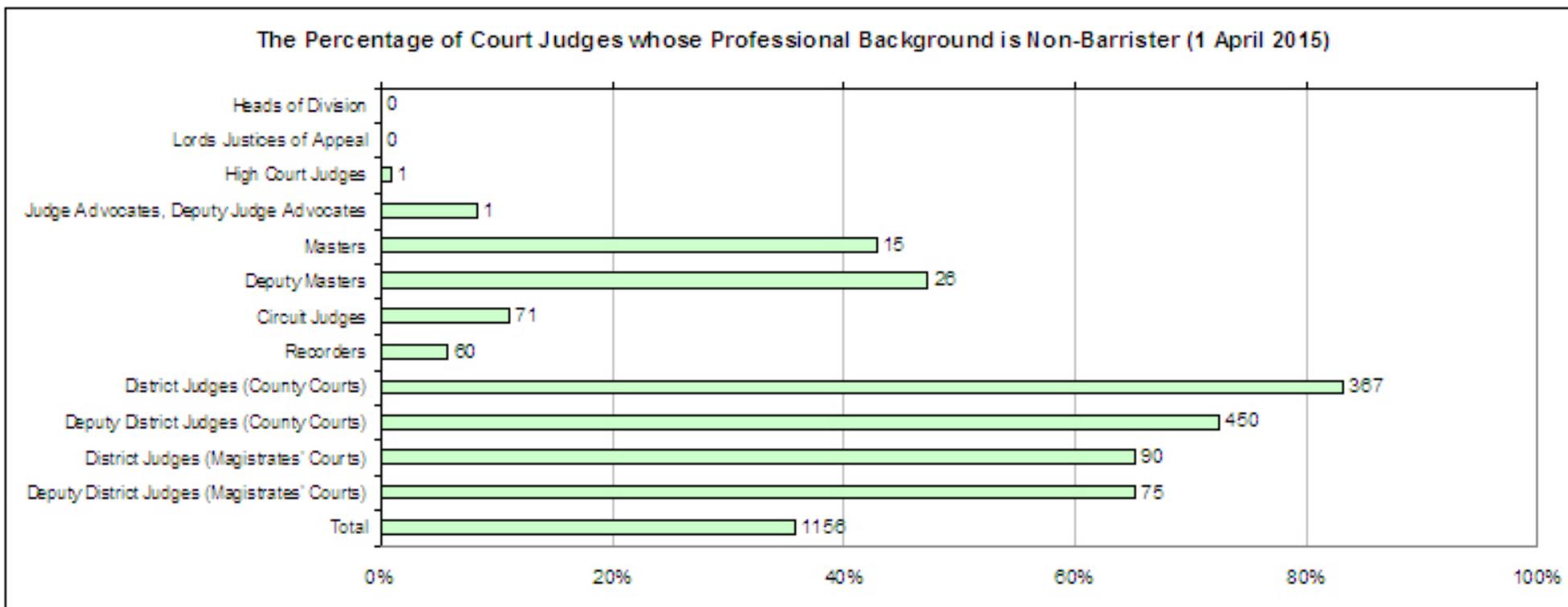
Figure 6 shows the percentage of court judges that are BME on 1 April in each of the last 5 years.

It has remained relatively constant over the years with a slight increase from 2011 to 2015; 154 out of 2992 (5.1%) court judges declared as BME in 2011 compared to 159 out of 2686 (5.9%) in 2015.

Judges by profession

There are 1156 (35.7%) judges in the courts whose professional background, where it was declared, is not as a Barrister. This is a slight decrease from 2014 when 36.6% of court judges came from a non Barrister background. Figure 7 shows that the percentages are significantly higher for District Judges and Masters with as many as 83.2% of District Judges in the County Courts coming from a Solicitor background.

Figure 7



Judges by region

Figure 8 shows that the percentage of female judges is highest in London where 173 out of 609 (28.4%) judges are female.

In comparison the South West has the lowest percentage of female judges with 52 of the 283 (18.4%) judges being female.

Figure 8

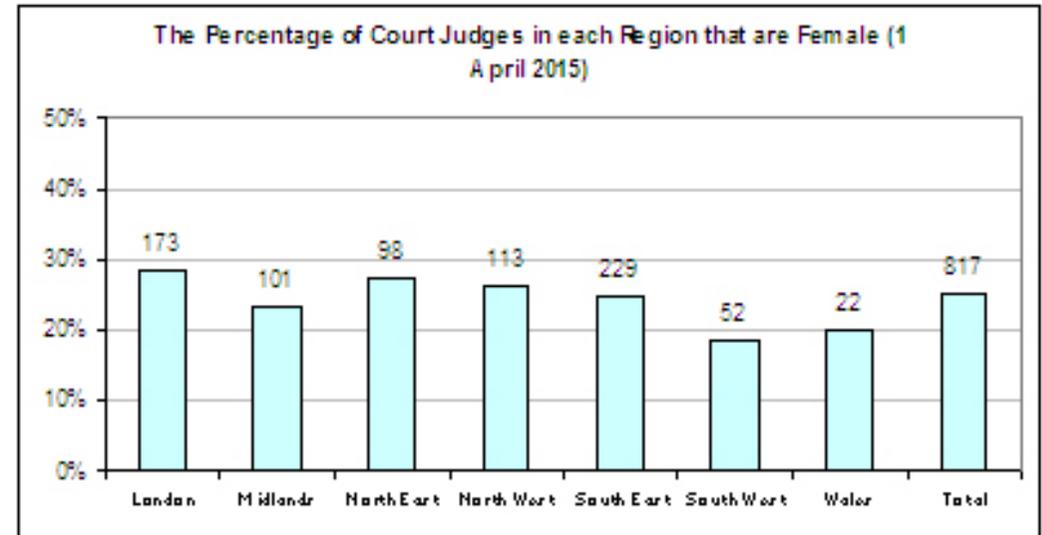
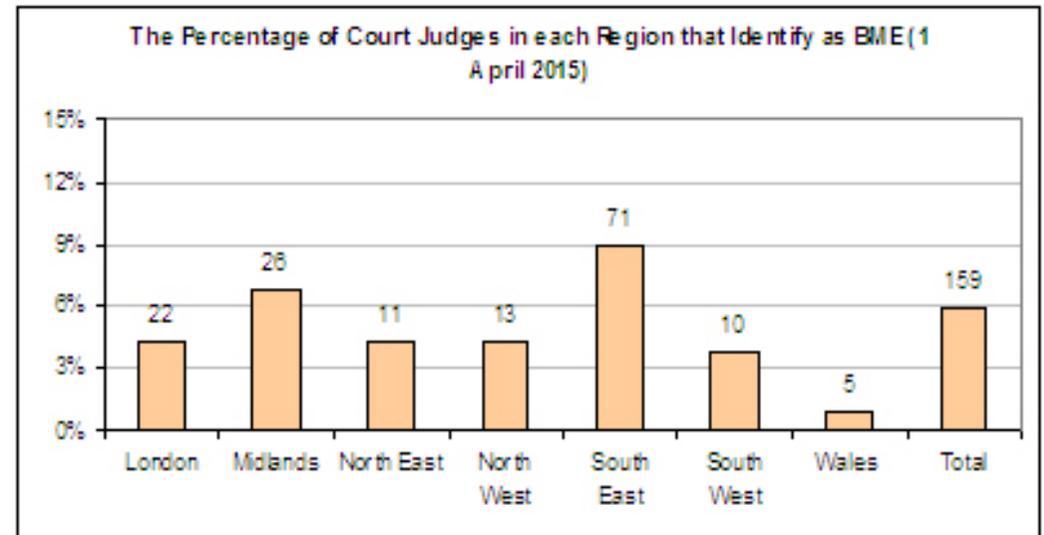


Figure 9 shows that the percentage of judges who identify as BME is highest in the South East where 71 out of 803 (8.8%) judges who declared their ethnicity identify as BME.

In comparison the percentage of judges who identify as BME is lowest in Wales where 1 out of 113 (0.9%) judges who declared their ethnicity identify as BME.

Figure 9



# Diversity in the Tribunals

## Judges by gender

The number of judges in the tribunals on 1 April 2015 was 2004, of which 878 (43.8%) are female. This is a slight increase from 2014 when 43.0% of tribunal judges were female.

Figure 10 shows that there is a higher percentage of female judges in the younger age bands with 50 out of 89 (56.2%) judges in the under 40 age band being female.

In comparison 227 out of 784 (29%) judges in the over 60 age band are female.

These figures suggest that the overall percentage of female judges in the tribunals will increase over time.

Figure 11 shows the percentage of tribunal judges that are female on 1 April in each of the last 4 years.

It has gradually grown over each of the years with 812 out of 2030 (40%) tribunal judges being female in 2012 compared to 878 out of 2004 (43.8%) in 2015.

Figure 10

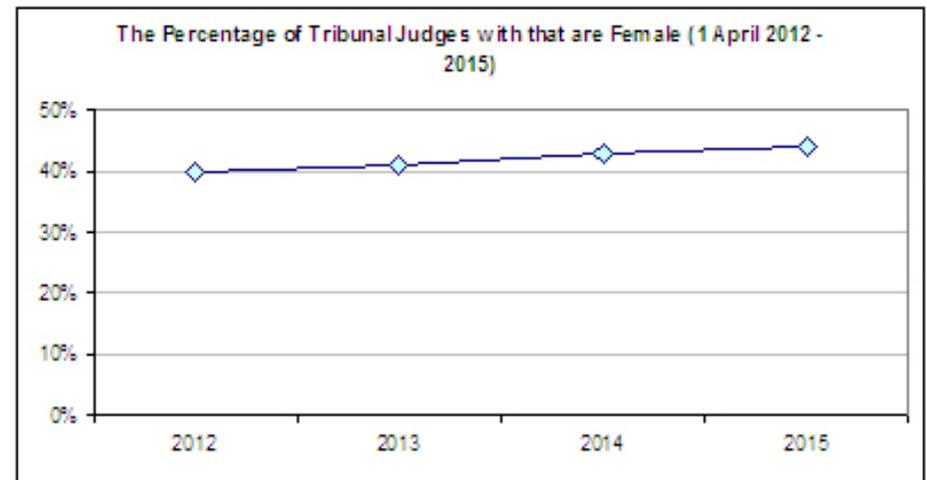
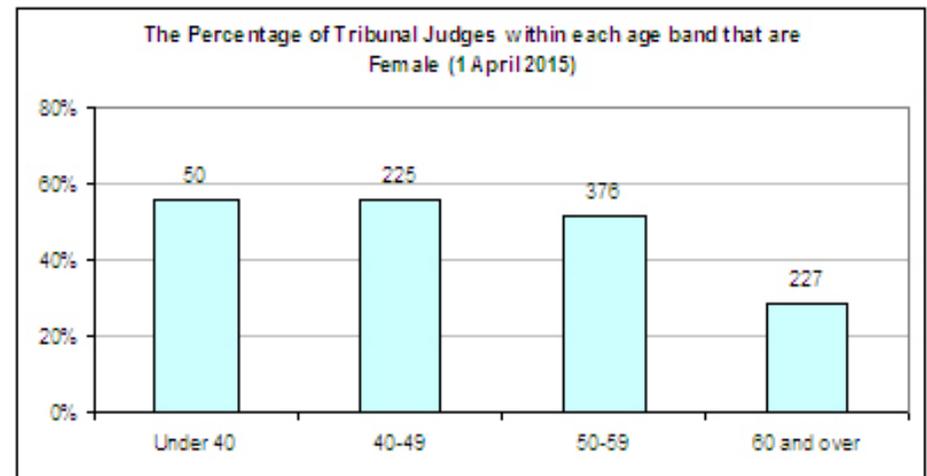


Figure 11



Judges by ethnicity

Out of the 2004 judges in the tribunals there are 1868 (93.2%) judges for which the ethnicity is known. The percentage of judges whose ethnicity is known is up from 92.8% in 2012, this is a result of the Judicial Office collecting ethnicity data on all new appointments from May 2009.

Of the 1868 judges who declared their ethnicity there are 177 (9.5%) who declared their background as Black or Minority Ethnic (BME).

Figure 12 shows that there is a higher percentage of tribunal judges in the younger age bands with 14.8% of judges in the under 40 age band being BME.

In comparison 5.5% of judges in the over 60 age band are BME.

These figures suggest that the overall percentage of BME judges in the tribunals will increase over time.

Figure 12

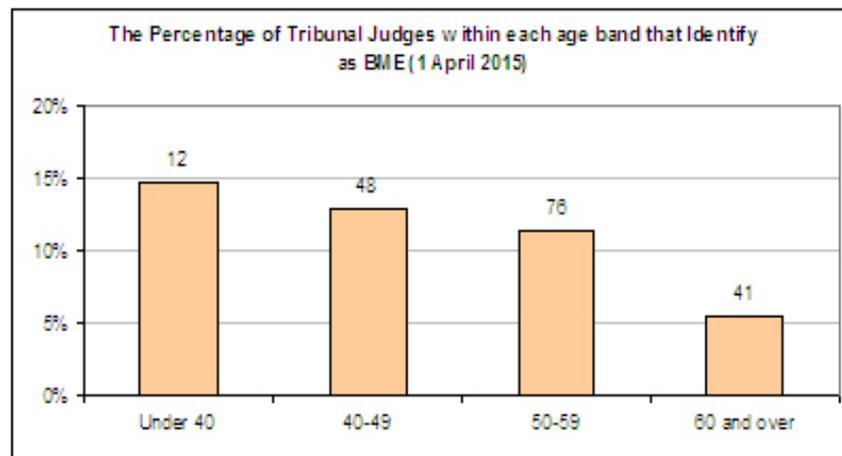


Figure 13

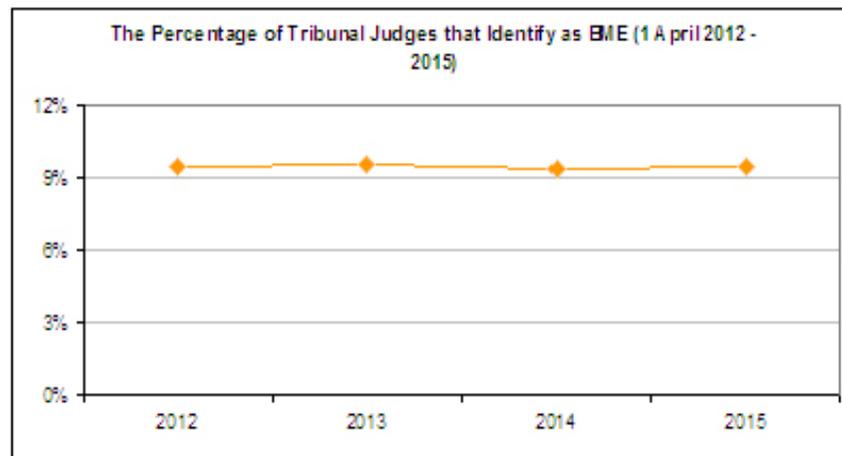


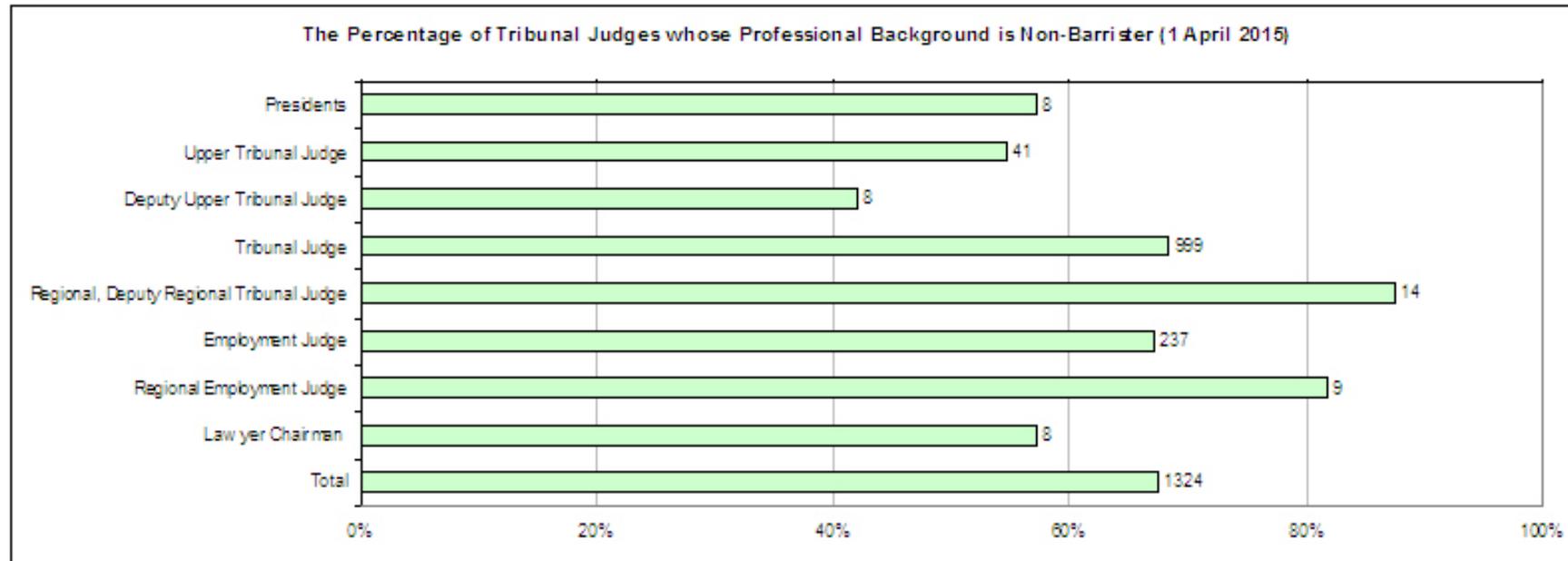
Figure 13 shows the percentage of tribunal judges that are BME on 1 April in each of the last 4 years.

It has remained relatively constant over the last 4 years; 9.5% of tribunal judges declared their ethnicity as BME in both 2012 and 2015.

### Judges by professional background

There are currently 1324 (67.4%) judges in the tribunals whose professional background, where it was declared, is not as a Barrister. This is a slight decrease from 2014 when 1362 (67.8%) of tribunal judges came from a non Barrister background. Figure 14 shows that the percentage of non barristers is slightly lower among the more senior positions, however, given the relatively low numbers in these positions it is expected that there would be a large variation in these figures.

Figure 14



### Judges by salaried/ fee paid

There are currently 473 (23.6%) salaried judges in the tribunals. This is very little change in comparison to 2014 when there were 481 (23.4%) salaried judges in the tribunals.

There are also 12 (0.3%) salaried tribunal members. This is down from 14 (0.3%) salaried tribunal members in 2014.

All other positions in the tribunals will be fee paid. Fee paid positions are paid according to the number of sittings or days worked. The number of sitting days varies depending on the type of appointment, and will generally be at least 15 days a year.

## Contacts

Enquires or comments about the content and statistics in this bulletin should be directed to:

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General information about the official statistics system of the United Kingdom is available from:

**<http://statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system>**