

PILON COUNTRY REPORT – PITCAIRN

1 November 2021

1. Major law and justice sector achievements

Pitcairn has previously conducted hearings in New Zealand with video link to Pitcairn, and has long had an ability to allow participation of counsel, defendants and witnesses by video link. This has typically been through a single video call between a court room or other facility in New Zealand and the court on Pitcairn. Due to Covid restrictions on travel to Pitcairn and within New Zealand, there have been further logistical difficulties in arranging court hearings. This year the Magistrate's court has successfully utilised online meeting platforms (teams) to connect lawyers, the court stenographer, media, and other observers in multiple locations in New Zealand to Magistrate's court hearings held on Pitcairn, and anticipates continuing to do so to connect lawyers and witnesses across multiple locations in New Zealand and the UK to the court later this year.

2. Significant court decisions

There have been no decisions of higher courts in 2021.

3. PILON strategic priorities

(a) Cybercrime

There have been no prosecutions of cybercrime in 2021. Challenges for Pitcairn include difficulty with analysis of electronic devices, given the limited IT capability on island. In general, this can be overcome by informal requests for assistance from New Zealand police.

(b) Corruption

There have been no allegations or prosecutions for corruption offences in Pitcairn in 2021.

In 2018, the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 was passed by the UK Parliament, which requires all OTs, including Pitcairn, to develop publicly accessible registers of beneficial ownership of companies within its jurisdiction. Pitcairn is now working towards that goal. Current UK Government policy is that this will be required by the end of 2023.

Pitcairn is also currently developing a conflict of interest register for members of Council and members of the Pitcairn Public Service.

(c) Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

There have been no allegations or prosecutions for sexual or gender-based violence in Pitcairn in 2021.

4. Technical legal assistance

Many of Pitcairn's law and justice sector roles are filled by professionals from New Zealand or the UK, allowing Pitcairn to benefit from training provided within those jurisdictions. It has also been fortunate to receive technical assistance from a range of UK Government and non-government organisations.

5. Contact information for key law and justice agencies

Agency	Key responsibilities	Contact person and position	Phone number and email
Attorney General's Office	Principal legal adviser to the Government of Pitcairn, including legislative drafting, and supervision of prosecutions	Simon Mount QC <i>Attorney General</i> Danielle Kelly <i>Assistant AG</i>	Simon.mount@bankside.co.nz +64 9 379 1519 Danielle.kelly@bankside.co.nz +64 9 21 280 2085
Public Prosecutions	Prosecutions and advice to police	Kieran Raftery QC	(contact through the AG Office)
Courts		Kevin Robinson <i>Court Registrar</i>	registrar@pitcairn.gov.pn