

11 October 2013

Mima Bobot
Registrar
Employment Court Auckland
Specialist Courts and Tribunals Centre
DX CX10086
Auckland 1036

By email: mima.bobot@justice.govt.nz

Dear Ms Bobot

Employment Court Disposal Times

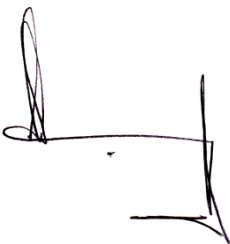
Thank you for your letter of 26 September 2013 and for the very useful update on the Employment Court's short-term and long-term goals for timely disposal of cases.

The Law Society's Employment Law Committee, which consists of employment law practitioners from around the country, has considered your letter, including the request for suggestions on how Court staff can be helped to achieve the Court's long-term goal – namely, to reduce disposal time as close as possible to 50% by 2018.

The committee considers that Court staff ought to be encouraged (and, if necessary, authorised) to adopt a proactive, rather than a reactive, approach to case management. In practice, this would presumably require devolving responsibility to Registry staff to actively manage timetables in relation to cases (including, for example, policing the timetable for filing of documents such as statements of reply). We consider that this would alleviate pressure on the Judges, who may not have adequate time for these tasks.

If it would assist, the committee members who are based in Auckland would be pleased to meet with you in person to discuss this further. A meeting can be arranged by contacting the committee secretary, Jo Holland (ph 04 463 2967 / jo.holland@lawsociety.org.nz).

Yours sincerely



Michael Quigg
Convenor, Employment Law Committee