



# Courts Act 2003

## 2003 CHAPTER 39

### PART 1

#### MAINTAINING THE COURT SYSTEM

##### *The general duty*

#### **1 The general duty**

- (1) The Lord Chancellor is under a duty to ensure that there is an efficient and effective system to support the carrying on of the business of—
  - (a) the Supreme Court,
  - (b) county courts, and
  - (c) magistrates' courts,and that appropriate services are provided for those courts.
- (2) In this Part—
  - (a) “the Supreme Court” includes the district probate registries, and
  - (b) “magistrates' court” includes a committee of justices.
- (3) In this Part references to the Lord Chancellor’s general duty in relation to the courts are to his duty under this section.
- (4) The Lord Chancellor must, within 18 months of the coming into force of this section, and afterwards annually, prepare and lay before both Houses of Parliament a report as to the way in which he has discharged his general duty in relation to the courts.