

*To the Finnish Parliamentary Commissioner for the Judiciary and Civil Administration
To the Ombudsman*

Addition to the request of reply

Dnr 1538/4/04

Wish to present the following complementary addition regarding the statistics on the hearing time of civil cases and criminal cases 2003 presented by the Court of Civil and Criminal Appeal in Vasa.

The Court of Civil and Criminal Appeal declares that the statistics given in the investigation requested by the Ombudsman is the correct one and not the one given in the Court of Civil and Criminal Appeal's annual report for 2003.

To the Ombudsman has the Court of Civil and Criminal Appeal (p.4) stated that the average hearing time of civil cases in year 2003 has been 10 months and 25 days for cases in Finnish and 15 months and 3 days for cases in Swedish. For the criminal cases would the corresponding figures be 8 months and 2 days for the cases in Finnish and 10 months and 5 days for the cases in Swedish. The hearing times are stated the other way around compared to the annual report for year 2003 on language bases. The Court of Civil and Criminal Appeal has previously presented that the Swedish cases at the Court of Civil and Criminal Appeal constitutes approximately 5% of the total number of cases (see the Chief Justice of the Court Ingvar Krook's statement in Vasabladet). The average hearing time for all civil cases would thus be 11 months and for criminal cases 8 months and 5 days.

According to these statistics that the Court of Civil and Criminal Appeal has presented to the Ombudsman is the hearing time for civil cases 13.0% longer than what has been stated in the annual report for year 2003. Regarding the criminal cases is the hearing time 11.9% longer than what is stated in the annual report. Given that the statistics regards a large number of cases, more than 1 100 criminal cases and approximately 400 civil cases, are these significant and notable differences.

What consequences have the differences in the information given? Which figures are the official statistics for the court based on? Is it so that the decisions of the authorities – services, locations, and court district division – are based on the wrong statistics?

Has the Court of Civil and Criminal Appeal in Vasa reported the wrong statistics to the Ombudsman, or is both the statistics in the annual report and in the requested investigation wrong? The Ombudsman should according to Finlandssvensk samling r.f. thoroughly investigate the circumstances at the Court of Civil and Criminal Appeal in Vasa.

Närpes the 10th of November

Finlandssvensk samling r.f.

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Executive Manager