

**IN THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
ON APPEAL FROM THE COURT OF APPEAL OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

JCPC 2025/0083

BETWEEN

F.R.

Appellant

and

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Respondent

RESPONDENT’S CASE

Reference to the Electronic Bundle is in the format [XXX]

Introduction and summary

1. There is no dispute that the criminal justice system in Trinidad and Tobago is plagued with delay. The delays described in this case in the prosecution of the man accused of assaulting the Appellant (“the accused”) are not atypical.
2. The problem of delay in the criminal justice system is a complex one. The speed with which any matter passes through the system is the result of a complex interaction between many participants: police; prosecutors; attorneys; witnesses; and courts. Fixing delay is not simply a question of putting financial and human resources into the court system, in the form of extra court space and trained court staff, trained judges, etc; there are also the resources (manpower, training, facilities) of the Police Service and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (“DPP”) to consider. Further, delay is not simply a question of resources alone, but of the independent decisions and actions of a number of actors. The likelihood of delay and adjournment in any case is in part a product of decisions informed by the culture, practices and expectations of the police, the prosecutor’s office, the courts and the legal profession. Moreover, all of these decisions take place within a system of statutory rules and rules of procedure administered by the judiciary, which rules seek imperfectly to balance the interests of