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Northern Ireland Court Service

Crown Court Bulletin

July - September 2005



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Northern Ireland
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Important Notes:

Figures are run from an administrative database and may change due to late returns and further validations.

The number of defendants is based on the number of defendants disposed of from July to September 2005. As stats forms are completed when the case has finished, figures for this period may change.

Date of disposal is based on the date of sentencing, date of acquittal or date a bill of indictment is not proceeded with.

The classification of bail and custody at remand, committal or arraignment is based on the status the defendant was at the first date of remand, committal or arraignment. It does not take into account if the status of the defendant changed between these dates.

The classification of bail and custody from hearing to disposal, and remand to disposal is based on status at arraignment.

Waiting times do not exclude recess.

Summary

- **Cases received and dealt with:**

There were 319 Crown cases received during July to September 2005. This is a decrease on the 323 received during July to September 2004. The cases dealt with have also decreased by 19% from 212 in July to September 2004, to 171 in 2005.

- **Remand to Committal:**

The average time in weeks from remand to committal is 23 weeks, a decrease of 2 weeks on July to September 2004 (25 weeks). The defendants in custody took on average more than twice as long as those on bail.

- **Committal to Arraignment:**

The average time in weeks from committal to arraignment is 7 weeks, a decrease of 3 weeks on July to September 2004 (10 weeks).

- **Arraignment to Hearing:**

The average time in weeks from arraignment to hearing is 11 weeks, 2 weeks more than July to September 2004 (9 weeks). Those defendants on bail took on average 2 weeks longer than those defendants in custody.

- **Remand to Disposal:**

On average, defendants being disposed of in the Crown Court between July to September 2005, took just under a year (50 weeks) to complete the court process.

- **Total defendants dealt with:**

There were 216 defendants dealt with in the Crown Court between July to September 2005, a decrease on the 257 (16%) dealt with during the same period last year.

Crown Court Cases Dealt With (July - September)

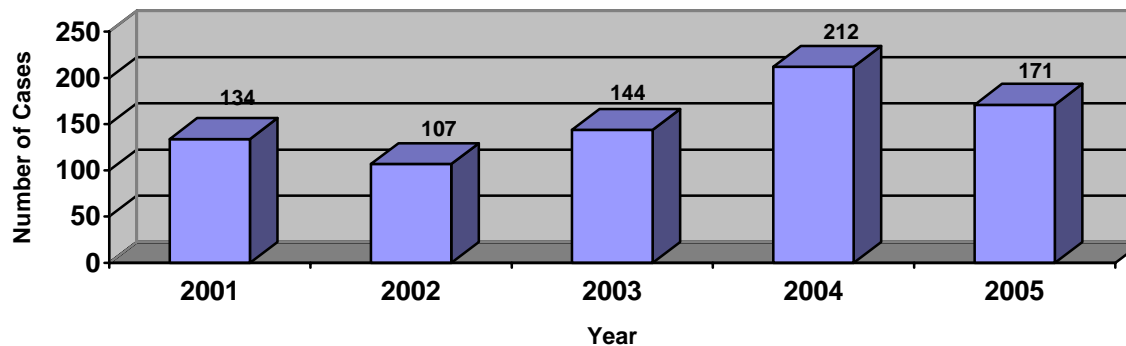


Table 1: Crown Court cases received and dealt with

	Crown court cases received	Dealt with
Belfast Scheduled	15	10
Belfast non-scheduled	99	49
Londonderry	24	20
Antrim	38	21
Fermanagh & Tyrone	41	17
Armagh & S Down	28	18
Ards	46	25
Craigavon	28	11
Total	319	171

Table 2: Time between remand to committal

	Bail		Custody		Total	
	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)
Scheduled	3	24.3	22	32.0	25	31.1
Non-scheduled	114	14.4	77	33.1	191	21.9
Total	117	14.6	99	32.8	216	23.0

Table 3: Time between committal to arraignment

	Bail		Custody		Total	
	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)
Scheduled	18	5.2	7	5.6	25	5.3
Non-scheduled	138	6.4	53	7.9	191	6.8
Total	156	6.3	60	7.7	216	6.6

Table 4: Time between committal to hearing

	Bail		Custody		Mixed		Total	
	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)
Scheduled	18	20.8	7	31.4	.	.	25	23.8
Non-scheduled	133	17.0	47	14.2	11	18.8	191	16.4
Total	151	17.5	54	16.4	11	18.8	216	17.3

Table 5: Time between arraignment to hearing

	Bail		Custody		Total	
	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)
Scheduled	18	15.6	7	25.9	25	18.5
Non-scheduled	139	10.8	52	6.6	191	9.6
Total	157	11.3	59	8.9	216	10.7

Table 6: Time between hearing to disposal

	Bail		Custody		Total	
	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)
Scheduled	18	10.8	7	13.6	25	11.6
Non-scheduled	139	9.7	52	9.6	191	9.7
Total	157	9.9	59	10.1	216	9.9

Nb. Defendants split into bail and custody on the basis of their status at arraignment

Table 7: Time between remand to disposal

	Bail		Custody		Total	
	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)
Scheduled	18	60.7	7	81.2	25	66.4
Non-scheduled	139	44.9	52	56.5	191	48.0
Total	157	46.7	59	59.4	216	50.2

Nb. Defendants split into bail and custody on the basis of their status at arraignment

Table 8: Total defendants dealt with

	Bail		Custody		Total	
	No. of defendants	%	No. of defendants	%	No. of defendants	%
Scheduled	18	72%	7	28%	25	100%
Non-scheduled	139	73%	52	27%	191	100%
Total	157	73%	59	27%	216	100%

Table 9: Outcome of defendants

	Mixed outcome	Pleaded guilty on all charges	Pleaded not guilty - convicted on all charges	Pleaded not guilty - nolle on all charges	Pleaded not guilty - no bill on all charges	Pleaded not guilty - acquitted on all charges	Found unfit to plead on all charges	Total
Belfast scheduled	9	13	1	.	.	2	.	25
Belfast non-scheduled	11	40	.	2	1	.	.	54
Londonderry	4	15	2	2	.	1	.	24
Antrim	3	11	1	.	.	3	1	19
Fermanagh & Tyrone	9	15	.	1	.	5	.	30
Armagh & S Down	8	7	.	.	.	7	.	22
Ards	4	22	.	1	.	.	.	27
Craigavon	3	7	.	.	.	5	.	15
Total	51	130	4	6	1	23	1	216

Table 10: Crown Court Sitings

	Average Sitting Time	Number of Sittings
Belfast	1:44:34	165
Londonderry	2:53:29	43
Antrim	2:51:44	43
Fermanagh	2:43:24	27
Armagh	2:07:19	34
Newtownards	1:46:24	22
Craigavon	2:37:13	27
Total	2:10:51	361

Appendix 1 – Waiting Time in Days for Crown Court Proceedings from January to September 2005

Time between Remand to Committal

		Bail/Mixed		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)
Scheduled		18	255.4	52	290.8	70	281.7
Non-scheduled		625	116.5	428	232.2	1053	163.5
Total		643	120.4	480	238.5	1123	170.9

Time between Committal to Arraignment

		Bail/Mixed		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)
Scheduled		52	56.9	18	48.7	70	54.8
Non-scheduled		766	55.0	287	46.4	1053	52.6
Total		818	55.1	305	46.5	1123	52.8

Time between Committal to Hearing

		Bail/Mixed		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)
Scheduled		53	177.2	17	211.6	70	185.5
Non-scheduled		788	134.1	265	99.6	1053	125.4
Total		841	136.8	282	106.4	1123	129.2

Time between Arraignment to Hearing

		Bail/Mixed		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)
Scheduled		53	120.6	17	162.2	70	130.7
Non-scheduled		757	80.0	296	54.5	1053	72.8
Total		810	82.6	313	60.3	1123	76.4

Time between Hearing to Disposal

		Bail/Mixed		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)
Scheduled		53	69.7	17	84.9	70	73.4
Non-scheduled		757	62.1	296	58.1	1053	61.0
Total		810	62.6	313	59.5	1123	61.7

Nb. Defendants split into bail and custody on the basis of their status at arraignment.

Time between Remand to Disposal

		Bail/Mixed		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)
Scheduled		53	533.8	17	561.9	70	540.6
Non-scheduled		757	345.0	296	362.6	1053	349.9
Total		810	357.3	313	373.5	1123	361.8

Nb. Defendants split into bail and custody on the basis of their status at arraignment.