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Northern Ireland Court Service

Children's Order Quarterly Bulletin

October - December 2005



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

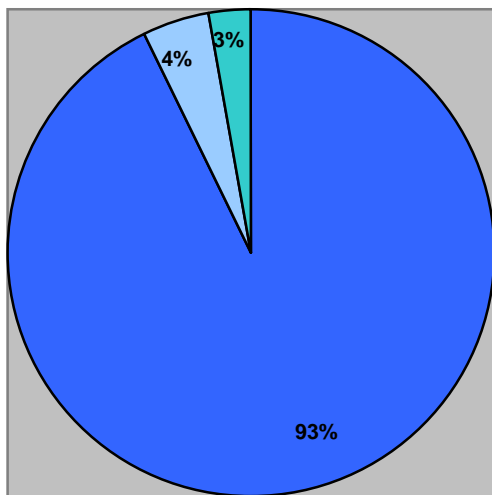
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Summary

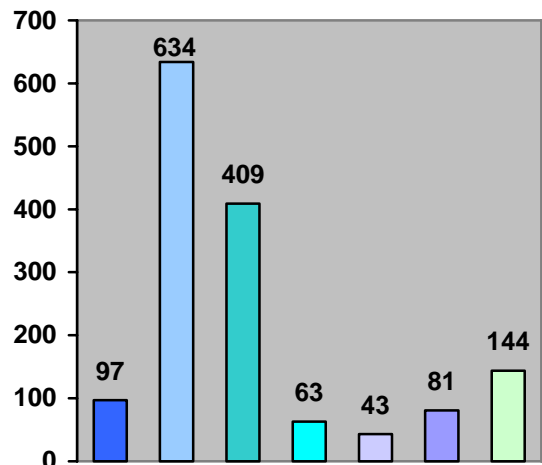
- There were 1,467 applications entered during the period, of which:
172 = Public
1,295 = Private
- There were 1,471 applications dealt with during the period, of which:
155 = Public
1,316 = Private
- There were 29 cases transferred during the period, (with 29 reasons).
- The majority of own motion orders made were in relation to Contact and Residence issues.
- The majority of interim orders made were in relation to Care and Contact issues.
- Court time spent on Children Order business between October to December 2005:
Total time = 1094 hours 30 minutes
Ave. sitting time = 2 hours 17 minutes
- There were 1,479 orders made between October to December 2005.
- The average waiting time in weeks between lodgement to disposal for public law cases:
High Court = 39 weeks
FCC = 69 weeks
FPC = 28 weeks
Nb. This does not include time at other court tiers unless specified.
- There were 1,037 children involved in Children Order Proceedings during the period.

Figure 1: Number of applications received by court tier



■ Family Proceedings = 93%
■ Family Care Centre = 4%
■ High Court = 3%

Figure 2: Number of applications disposed by application type



■ Parental Responsibility
■ Contact
■ Residence
■ Prohibited steps
■ Specific Issues
■ Care
■ Other orders

Table 1a: Applications entered and disposed

		Number of applications entered	Number of disposals
Public Law	Family Proceedings Court	144	114
	Magistrates' Court	0	0
	Family Care Centre	23	26
	High Court	5	15
	Total	172	155
Private Law	Family Proceedings Court	1218	1239
	Family Care Centre	42	43
	High Court	35	34
	Total	1295	1316

Private law = residence, contact, specific issues, prohibited steps, parental responsibility, financial contribution, guardianship, family assistance, non-molestation and occupation orders

Table 1b: Applications entered and disposed by venue

		Public Law		Private Law	
		Number of applications entered	Number of disposals	Number of applications entered	Number of disposals
Family Proceedings Court	Ballymena	20	23	168	204
	Craigavon	8	3	90	68
	Londonderry	9	5	116	138
	Newry	5	11	155	179
	Newtownards	35	13	198	175
	Belfast	30	43	298	317
	Dungannon	5	1	39	16
	Craigavon@Lisburn	13	5	90	84
	Dungannon@Omagh	19	10	64	58
	Venue total	144	114	1218	1239
Magistrates' Court	Lisburn	0	0	.	.
	Venue total	0	0	.	.
Family Care Centre	Craigavon	7	4	4	5
	Londonderry	3	8	9	7
	Belfast	12	12	18	25
	Dungannon	1	2	8	1
	Dungannon@Omagh	0	0	3	5
	Venue total	23	26	42	43
High Court	Probate & Matrimonial	.	.	10	13
	Wardship & Adoption	5	15	25	21
	Venue Total	5	15	35	34

[1] Private law = residence, contact, specific issues, prohibited steps, parental responsibility, financial contribution, guardianship, family assistance, non-molestation and occupation orders. [2] Ballymena also sits at Antrim, Coleraine and Larne

Table 1c: Applications entered and disposed

	Public Law		Private Law	
	Number of applications entered	Number of disposals	Number of applications entered	Number of disposals
Northern Ireland	172	155	1295	1316

Table 2: Reasons for transfer [1]

								Total
		Adjourned to another venue - Convenience	Gravity	Importance	Complexity	Case linked - Consolidation	Other	
Family Proceedings Court	Ballymena	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
	Craigavon	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
	Londonderry	.	.	1	4	1	.	6
	Newry	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
	Newtownards	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
	Belfast	.	.	.	6	.	2	8
	Craigavon@Lisburn	1	.	.	3	1	.	5
	Venue total	1	.	1	16	4	2	24
Family Care Centre	Belfast	.	1	.	2	.	.	3
	Craigavon@Newry	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
	Venue total	.	1	.	4	.	.	5
N Ireland		1	1	1	20	4	2	29

Where a court tier / venue is omitted, this indicates a nil return for the period to date.

[1] Total number of reasons for transfer. There may be more than one reason for each case.

Table 3: Total own motion orders

	Own motion orders
Parental Responsibility - Own Motion Orders	9
Contact: Permission - Own Motion Orders	107
Contact: Refusal - Own Motion Orders	0
Residence - Own Motion Orders	34
Prohibited Steps - Own Motion Orders	2
Specific Issues - Own Motion Orders	1
Family Assistance - Own Motion Orders	1
Care - Own Motion Orders	10
Supervision - Own Motion Orders	32
Education Supervision - Own Motion Orders	0
Child Assessment - Own Motion Orders	0
Emergency Protection - Own Motion Orders	0
Extension of EPO - Own Motion Orders	0
Recovery - Own Motion Orders	1
Secure Accommodation - Own Motion Orders	0
Article 53 Contract - Own Motion Orders	0
Appointment of Guardian under Part XV - Own Motion Orders	0
Contribution and other Financial - Own Motion Orders	1
Non-Molestation Order - Own Motion Orders	1
Occupation Articles - Own Motion Orders	0
Article 56 Investigations - Own Motion Orders	0
Exclusion Requirement - Own Motion Orders	0
Other orders, applications etc - Own Motion Orders	2
Total	201

Table 4: Total interim orders

	Interim orders
Parental Responsibility - Interim/Short-term Orders	5
Contact: Permission - Interim/Short-term Orders	928
Contact: Refusal - Interim/Short-term Orders	5
Residence - Interim/Short-term Orders	186
Prohibited Steps - Interim/Short-term Orders	34
Specific Issues - Interim/Short-term Orders	9
Family Assistance - Interim/Short-term Orders	4
Care - Interim/Short-term Orders	821
Supervision - Interim/Short-term Orders	28
Education Supervision - Interim/Short-term Orders	0
Child Assessment - Interim/Short-term Orders	0
Emergency Protection - Interim/Short-term Orders	3
Extension of EPO - Interim/Short-term Orders	4
Recovery - Interim/Short-term Orders	1
Secure Accommodation - Interim/Short-term Orders	33
Article 53 Contract - Interim/Short-term Orders	5
Appointment of Guardian under Part XV - Interim/Short-term Orders	2
Contribution and other Financial - Interim/Short-term Orders	0
Non-Molestation Order - Interim/Short-term Orders	12
Occupation Articles - Interim/Short-term Orders	1
Article 56 Investigations - Interim/Short-term Orders	0
Exclusion Requirement - Interim/Short-term Orders	0
Other orders, applications etc - Interim/Short-term Orders	2
Total	2083

Table 5: Sitting times and applications disposed of by venue

		Total sitting time	Average sitting time	Total sittings	Court disposals	Total adjournments
Family Proceedings Court	Ballymena	67:00:00	3:21:00	20	68	344
	Craigavon	28:20:00	2:34:32	11	76	231
	Londonderry	74:40:00	3:44:00	20	145	320
	Newry	57:00:00	3:48:00	15	206	668
	Newtownards	99:00:00	2:49:42	35	193	938
	Belfast	168:50:00	3:14:48	52	364	1301
	Ballymena @ Larne	9:30:00	1:54:00	5	22	56
	Ballymena @ Coleraine	24:55:00	3:33:34	7	54	124
	Ballymena @ Antrim	25:30:00	5:06:00	5	33	72
	Dungannon	18:55:00	2:42:08	7	18	31
	Craigavon@Lisburn	32:20:00	3:35:33	9	109	328
	Londonderry@Lakewood	3:35:00	1:11:40	3	2	3
	Dungannon@Omagh	64:10:00	4:16:40	15	59	265
	Ards@Lakewood	2:00:00	2:00:00	1	4	32
	Venue total	675:45:00	3:17:46	205	1353	4713
Magistrates' Court	Coleraine	0:10:00	0:10:00	1	0	1
	Larne	0:55:00	0:13:45	4	2	0
	Venue total	1:05:00	0:13:00	5	2	1
Family Care Centre	Craigavon	23:11:00	2:34:33	9	2	48
	Londonderry	62:15:00	1:26:51	43	15	25
	Belfast	146:19:00	1:35:25	92	40	227
	Craigavon@Newry	15:35:00	5:11:40	3	1	25
	Londonderry@Magherfelt	4:10:00	2:05:00	2	0	2
	Dungannon	1:30:00	0:22:30	4	1	6
	Newry@Craigavon	15:20:00	3:50:00	4	4	22
	Dungannon@Omagh	9:05:00	1:17:51	7	4	18
	Dungannon@Enniskillen	2:05:00	2:05:00	1	2	1
	Venue total	279:30:00	1:41:38	165	69	374
County Court	Belfast	0:10:00	0:10:00	1	0	4
	Venue total	0:10:00	0:10:00	1	0	4
High Court	Probate & Matrimonial	15:30:00	0:46:30	20	4	65
	Wardship & Adoption	122:30:00	1:30:44	81	49	269
	Venue total	138:00:00	1:21:58	101	53	334

Where a court tier / venue is omitted, this indicates a nil return for the period to date

Table 5: Sitting times and business disposed of in Northern Ireland

	Total sitting time	Average sitting time	Total sittings	Court disposals	Total adjournments
Northern Ireland	1094:30:00	2:17:40	477	1477	5426

[1] Total sittings include both minority and majority sittings

Table 6: Outcome of applications

	Order of No Order - Granted by Consent	Order of No Order - Granted Other	Other Order - Granted by Consent	Other Order - Granted Other	Application - Refused	Application - Withdrawn
Parental Responsibility	4	3	47	21	6	19
Contact Permission	49	7	358	108	26	87
Contact Refusal	2	3	2	3	2	1
Residence	26	5	248	47	23	50
Prohibited Steps	14	0	8	8	5	16
Specific Issues	1	0	11	9	7	12
Family Assistance	0	0	1	2	0	0
Care	6	4	27	14	0	9
Supervision	2	0	4	1	0	0
Education Supervision	0	2	6	0	0	2
Emergency Protection	0	0	0	1	2	0
Recovery	0	0	0	2	0	0
Secure Accommodation	3	0	2	4	0	8
Appointment of Guardian	6	1	28	12	0	1
Article 53 Contact	0	0	0	1	0	0
Occupation articles	0	0	0	3	0	2
Non molestation order	0	0	0	8	0	5
Other orders	1	2	1	2	6	4
Total	114	27	743	246	77	216

Nb. These figures do not include appeals or court disposals made as a result of C2 applications determined during currency of report

High Court (ICOS figures)

	Order Made
Article 8 Contact Order	17
Care Order	14
Dismiss Order	2
Family Assistance Order	2
Leave to change surname by which child is known	1
Leave to remove child from UK	1
Leave to withdraw	10
Non-molestation order	1
Parental responsibility order	2
Residence order	6
Total	56

Table 7a: Average time in weeks from lodgement to disposal by venue

		Public law		Private law	
		Average time weeks	Number of cases	Average time weeks	Number of cases
Family Proceedings Court	Ballymena	40.62	3	15.83	25
	Craigavon	12.79	2	16.82	35
	Enniskillen	.	.	12.00	2
	Londonderry	11.46	10	23.18	68
	Newry	55.54	4	25.98	67
	Newtownards	19.71	7	23.91	94
	Belfast	26.45	26	18.88	127
	Ballymena@Larne	44.64	2	16.53	7
	Ballymena@Coleraine	14.83	5	19.36	21
	Ballymena@Antrim	5.86	1	15.81	16
	Dungannon	104.14	1	13.97	15
	Craigavon@Lisburn	52.40	5	21.88	40
	Dungannon @Omagh	60.71	1	16.35	21
	Dungannon @Strabane	.	.	22.43	1
	Total	28.45	67	20.77	539
Family Care Centre	Craigavon	83.29	2	10.86	3
	Londonderry	59.50	4	3.24	3
	Belfast	73.50	2	66.88	6
	Total	68.95	8	36.96	12
High Court	Probate & Matrimonial	.	.	32.50	13
	Wardship & Adoption	39.00	13	22.20	11
	Total	39.00	13	27.80	24

Forms have been altered to reflect the time taken at the court tier which determined these cases.

Some cases will have started before this change was introduced and consequently the time shown will include the time taken at the first court tier.

Where a court tier / venue is omitted, this indicates a nil return for the period to date

Table 7b: Average time in weeks from lodgement to disposal in Northern Ireland

	Public law		Private law	
	Average time weeks	Number of cases	Average time weeks	Number of cases
Northern Ireland	33.70	88	21.40	575

Table 8: Age and gender of children

	Missing	0-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	Total
Male	2	160	151	107	76	496
Female	.	156	147	128	82	513
Unknown	3	3	6	10	6	28
Total	5	319	304	245	164	1037