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## **Northern Ireland Court Service**

### **Crown Court Bulletin**

**January - March 2009**  
**(PROVISIONAL FIGURES)**



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Northern Ireland  
**Statistics &  
Research  
Agency**

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### **Important Notes:**

Figures are run from a live 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 January to March 2009.

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

Waiting times do not exclude recess.

## Summary

- **Cases received and dealt with:**

There were 306 Crown cases received during January to March 2009. This is an 11% decrease on the 343 received during January to March 2008. The cases dealt with have increased by 2% from 365 in January to March 2008, to 372 in 2009.

- **Defendants received and dealt with:**

377 defendants were received in Crown Court during January to March 2009 (a 12% decrease since the same period last year). 469 defendants were dealt with during January to March 2009 (a decrease of 1% against the same period last year)

- **Waiting times:**

The average time from committal to hearing for January to March 2009 was 128 days, a decrease of 9% against the same period in 2008. The average time from conviction to disposal was 54 days, the same as for the equivalent period in 2008.

- **Disposals:**

County Court Judges disposed of 93% of defendants (437), and 20% of defendants were charged solely with offences against the person. 37% of defendants had a combination of charges.

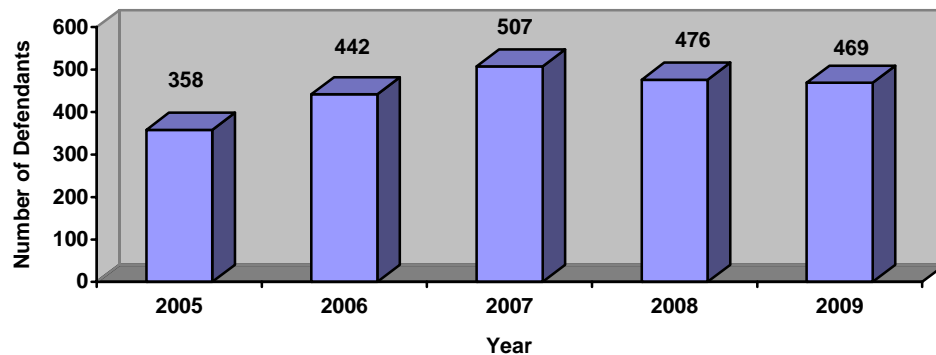
- **Pleas and findings:**

Of the 469 defendants disposed, 36% pleaded guilty to all charges and were therefore found guilty on all charges.

- **Crown Court sittings:**

In total there were 762 Crown court sittings for January to March 2009 in comparison to 676 for January to March 2008 (an increase of 13%), with a total time of 2111 hours sat compared to 1826 hours sat during the same period last year.  
(Please note that Easter recess took place in March 2008, as opposed to April in 2009).

Crown Court Defendants Dealt With (January to March)



**Table 1 - Crown Court cases received**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	118
<b>Londonderry</b>	29
<b>Antrim</b>	52
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	40
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	24
<b>Ards</b>	20
<b>Craigavon</b>	23
<b>Total</b>	306

**Table 2 - Crown Court cases disposed**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	147
<b>Londonderry</b>	46
<b>Antrim</b>	46
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	40
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	20
<b>Ards</b>	35
<b>Craigavon</b>	38
<b>Total</b>	372

**Table 3 - Crown Court defendants  
received**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	152
<b>Londonderry</b>	36
<b>Antrim</b>	58
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	48
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	33
<b>Ards</b>	25
<b>Craigavon</b>	25
<b>Total</b>	377

**Table 4 - Crown Court defendants  
disposed**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	178
<b>Londonderry</b>	54
<b>Antrim</b>	66
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	49
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	28
<b>Ards</b>	51
<b>Craigavon</b>	43
<b>Total</b>	469

**Table 5 - Waiting times in days**

	<b>Committal to hearing - days</b>	<b>Conviction to disposal - days</b>	<b>Total defendants disposed</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	152	51	171
<b>Londonderry</b>	85	40	51
<b>Antrim</b>	136	58	61
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	80	54	49
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	72	153	28
<b>Ards</b>	112	29	48
<b>Craigavon</b>	185	45	43
<b>Total</b>	128	54	451

[1] Excludes defendants who had a bench warrant or deferred sentence

**Table 6 - Crown Court defendants disposed by judge type**

	Judicial Level		Total
	County Court Judge	High Court Judge	
<b>Belfast</b>	158	20	178
<b>Londonderry</b>	53	1	54
<b>Antrim</b>	66		66
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	48	1	49
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	26	2	28
<b>Ards</b>	43	8	51
<b>Craigavon</b>	43		43
<b>Total</b>	437	32	469

**Table 7 - Crown Court defendants disposed  
by charge type**

<b>All Offences Against the Person</b>	92
<b>All Sexual Offences</b>	34
<b>All Burglary Offences</b>	7
<b>All Robbery Offences</b>	7
<b>All Theft Offences</b>	20
<b>All Fraud and Forgery Offences</b>	23
<b>All Criminal Damage Offences</b>	8
<b>All Offences Against the State</b>	1
<b>All Other Offences</b>	19
<b>All Drug Offences</b>	72
<b>All Motoring Offences</b>	9
<b>All Non-Police Offences</b>	5
<b>Combination of charges</b>	172
<b>Total</b>	469

**Table 8 - Outcome of Crown Court Defendants**

	Plea of guilty on all charges	Plea of not guilty on at least one charge - found guilty on at least one charge	Plea not guilty - acquitted on all charges	Total
Belfast	65	90	23	178
Londonderry	15	25	14	54
Antrim	31	28	7	66
Fermanagh and Tyrone	14	26	9	49
Armagh and South Down	8	15	5	28
Ards	22	26	3	51
Craigavon	16	25	2	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>469</b>

**Table 9 - Crown Court sitting times**

	Number of sittings	Total time
Belfast	309	907:54:00
Londonderry	100	315:48:00
Antrim	118	340:28:24
Fermanagh and Tyrone	58	123:44:24
Armagh and South Down	58	130:36:24
Ards	64	119:41:00
Craigavon	55	173:12:00
<b>Total</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>2111:24:12</b>