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Northern Ireland Court Service

Children's Order Quarterly Bulletin

January - March 2005



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

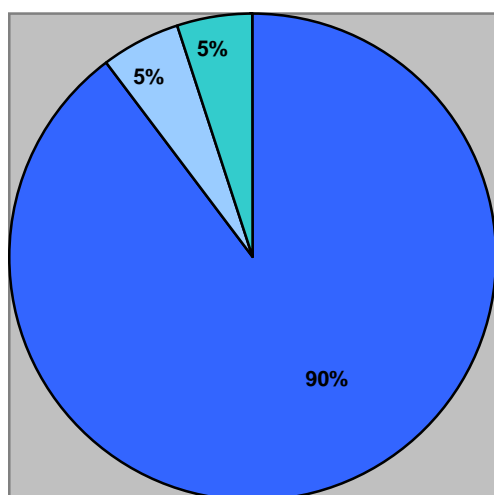
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Summary

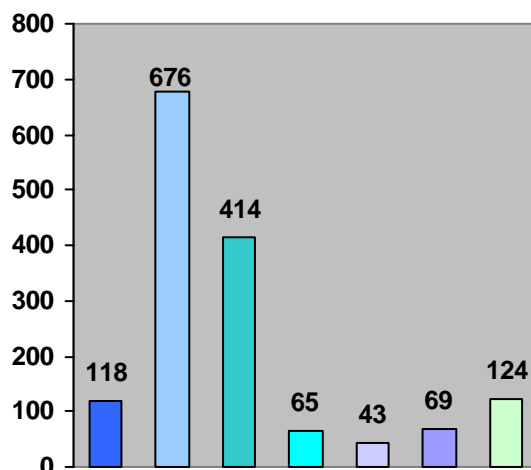
- There were 1,508 applications entered during the period, of which:
215 = Public
1,293 = Private
- There were 1,509 applications dealt with during the period, of which:
168 = Public
1,341 = Private
- There were 29 cases transferred during the period, (with 29 reasons).
- The majority of own motion orders 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 January to March 2005:
Total time = 1176 hours 41 minutes
Ave. sitting time = 2 hours 33 minutes
- There were 1,476 orders made between January to March 2005.
- The average waiting time in weeks between lodgement to disposal for public law cases:
High Court = 37 weeks
FCC = 48 weeks
FPC = 28 weeks
Nb. This does not include time at other court tiers unless specified.
- There were 1,027 children involved in Children Order Proceedings during the period.

Figure 1: Number of applications received by court tier



■ Family Proceedings = 90%
■ Family Care Centre = 5%
■ High Court = 5%

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	177	136
	Magistrates' Court	2	3
	Family Care Centre	24	18
	High Court	12	11
	Total	215	168
Private Law	Family Proceedings Court	1176	1266
	Family Care Centre	53	52
	County Court	2	4
	High Court	62	19
	Total	1293	1341

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	11	19	59	57
	Craigavon	12	6	57	71
	Londonderry	8	10	128	125
	Newry	11	12	199	141
	Newtownards	37	19	164	206
	Belfast	38	30	322	316
	Ballymena @ Antrim	24	19	64	96
	Dungannon	29	16	106	161
	Craigavon@Lisburn	7	5	77	93
	Venue total	177	136	1176	1266
Magistrates' Court	Craigavon	0	1	.	.
	Lisburn	2	2	.	.
	Venue total	2	3	.	.
Family Care Centre	Craigavon	12	6	11	7
	Londonderry	4	3	20	25
	Belfast	2	9	13	6
	Dungannon	6	0	9	14
	Venue total	24	18	53	52
County Court	Craigavon	.	.	2	4
	Venue total	.	.	2	4
High Court	Probate & Matrimonial	.	.	23	9
	Wardship & Adoption	12	11	39	10
	Venue total	12	11	62	19

[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	215	168	1293	1341

Table 2: Reasons for transfer [1]

		Complexity	Case linked - Consolidation	Other	Total
Family Proceedings Court	Craigavon	1	.	.	1
	Londonderry	2	.	3	5
	Newry	1	.	.	1
	Newtownards	2	.	2	4
	Belfast	6	2	1	9
	Dungannon	1	.	.	1
	Craigavon@Lisburn	1	.	.	1
	Dungannon@Omagh	.	1	.	1
	Venue total	14	3	6	23
Family Care Centre	Londonderry	.	1	2	3
	Belfast	1	1	1	3
	Venue total	1	2	3	6
N Ireland	15	5	9	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	10
Contact: Permission - Own Motion Orders	114
Contact: Refusal - Own Motion Orders	0
Residence - Own Motion Orders	21
Prohibited Steps - Own Motion Orders	6
Specific Issues - Own Motion Orders	3
Family Assistance - Own Motion Orders	0
Care - Own Motion Orders	1
Supervision - Own Motion Orders	12
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	0
Secure Accommodation - Own Motion Orders	2
Article 53 Contract - Own Motion Orders	0
Appointment of Guardian under Part XV - Own Motion Orders	0
Contribution and other Financial - Own Motion Orders	0
Non-Molestation Order - Own Motion Orders	0
Occupation Articles - Own Motion Orders	0
Article 56 Investigations - Own Motion Orders	2
Exclusion Requirement - Own Motion Orders	0
Other orders, applications etc - Own Motion Orders	1
Total	172

Table 4: Total interim orders

	Interim orders
Parental Responsibility - Interim/Short-term Orders	10
Contact: Permission - Interim/Short-term Orders	746
Contact: Refusal - Interim/Short-term Orders	5
Residence - Interim/Short-term Orders	220
Prohibited Steps - Interim/Short-term Orders	29
Specific Issues - Interim/Short-term Orders	1
Family Assistance - Interim/Short-term Orders	9
Care - Interim/Short-term Orders	875
Supervision - Interim/Short-term Orders	11
Education Supervision - Interim/Short-term Orders	2
Child Assessment - Interim/Short-term Orders	0
Emergency Protection - Interim/Short-term Orders	1
Extension of EPO - Interim/Short-term Orders	1
Recovery - Interim/Short-term Orders	8
Secure Accommodation - Interim/Short-term Orders	36
Article 53 Contract - Interim/Short-term Orders	29
Appointment of Guardian under Part XV - Interim/Short-term Orders	2
Contribution and other Financial - Interim/Short-term Orders	2
Non-Molestation Order - Interim/Short-term Orders	12
Occupation Articles - Interim/Short-term Orders	1
Article 56 Investigations - Interim/Short-term Orders	1
Exclusion Requirement - Interim/Short-term Orders	0
Other orders, applications etc - Interim/Short-term Orders	6
Total	2007

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	37:30:00	3:07:30	12	71	249
	Craigavon	24:50:00	4:08:20	6	41	121
	Londonderry	106:25:00	5:04:02	21	146	355
	Newry	76:50:00	4:31:10	17	173	621
	Newtownards	107:00:00	2:40:30	40	226	792
	Belfast	186:55:00	3:35:40	52	368	1084
	Ballymena @ Larne	14:20:00	2:02:51	7	20	40
	Ballymena @ Coleraine	34:30:00	5:45:00	6	45	136
	Ballymena @ Antrim	20:30:00	4:06:00	5	34	21
	Dungannon	18:45:00	4:41:15	4	36	116
	Craigavon@Lisburn	30:25:00	3:22:46	9	99	325
	Belfast@Lakewood	0:15:00	0:15:00	1	0	1
	Dungannon@Omagh	57:30:00	4:47:30	12	126	294
	Ards@Lakewood	0:15:00	0:15:00	1	0	2
	Craigavon@Lakewood	0:45:00	0:45:00	1	1	0
	Dungannon@Lakewood	1:00:00	1:00:00	1	0	1
		Venue total	717:45:00	3:40:50	195	1386
Magistrates' Court	Enniskillen	0:15:00	0:15:00	1	0	1
	Larne	0:10:00	0:10:00	1	1	0
	Londonderry	1:10:00	0:35:00	2	3	0
	Belfast	1:20:00	1:20:00	1	7	7
		Venue total	2:55:00	0:35:00	5	11
Family Care Centre	Craigavon	13:30:00	2:15:00	6	3	19
	Londonderry	74:43:00	2:08:05	35	30	110
	Belfast	116:08:00	1:56:08	60	17	170
	Craigavon@Newry	32:45:00	1:55:35	17	7	59
	Dungannon	31:20:00	1:44:26	18	14	53
	Craigavon@Laganside	8:40:00	1:44:00	5	3	3
	Dungannon@Omagh	2:50:00	2:50:00	1	1	5
		Venue total	279:56:00	1:58:16	142	75
County Court	Craigavon	2:50:00	0:56:40	3	5	1
		Venue total	2:50:00	0:56:40	3	5
High Court	Probate & Matrimonial	91:20:00	4:20:57	21	10	90
	Wardship & Adoption	81:55:00	0:52:50	93	29	338
		Venue total	173:15:00	1:31:11	114	39

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	1176:41:00	2:33:48	459	1516	5014

[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	9	8	50	17	9	29
Contact Permission	54	55	347	94	34	101
Contact Refusal	2	0	3	0	2	4
Residence	39	25	208	60	5	43
Prohibited Steps	1	3	5	4	3	18
Specific Issues	3	4	9	10	2	10
Care	5	3	21	23	1	8
Supervision	0	4	2	4	0	0
Education Supervision	0	0	1	1	0	2
Emergency Protection	0	0	0	8	0	0
Extension of EPO	0	0	0	1	0	0
Family Assistance	0	0	1	2	0	0
Recovery	0	0	0	2	0	0
Appointment of Guardian	1	1	19	19	0	0
Article 56 Investigation	0	0	0	0	0	2
Article 53	0	3	0	6	0	1
Secure Accommodation	2	1	2	5	1	1
Contribution & Financial	0	0	3	0	0	0
Non molestation order	0	0	0	0	0	3
Other orders	2	0	8	5	0	1
Total	118	107	679	261	57	223

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	14
Care Order	2
Contact with a child in care	1
Discharge of a care order	5
Leave to withdraw	2
Parental responsibility order	2
Residence order	5
Total	31

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	38.19	3	20.44	33
	Craigavon	39.00	2	28.71	24
	Enniskillen	3.43	1	.	.
	Londonderry	25.80	7	22.34	71
	Newry	33.83	6	20.52	59
	Newtownards	20.56	12	31.90	93
	Belfast	25.11	16	23.45	155
	Ballymena@Larne	29.81	3	14.71	6
	Ballymena@Coleraine	15.95	3	19.56	21
	Ballymena@Antrim	63.14	1	39.10	12
	Dungannon	.	.	20.53	20
	Craigavon@Lisburn	52.90	3	30.91	38
	Dungannon @Omagh	30.46	5	17.32	32
	Total	28.06	62	24.59	564
Magistrates' Court	Antrim	.	.	41.29	1
	Total	.	.	41.29	1
Family Care Centre	Craigavon	67.57	1	60.21	2
	Londonderry	30.43	1	25.39	7
	Belfast	48.14	5	14.57	2
	Total	48.39	7	29.75	11
County Court	Craigavon	.	.	20.71	1
	Total	.	.	20.71	1
High Court	Probate & Matrimonial	.	.	2.50	3
	Wardship & Adoption	37.14	8	12.22	7
	Total	37.14	8	9.30	10

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	30.85	77	24.45	587

Table 8: Age and gender of children

	Missing	0-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	Total
Male	.	173	172	119	59	523
Female	.	165	163	100	63	491
Unknown	2	.	5	5	1	13
Total	2	338	340	224	123	1027