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## Northern Ireland Court Service

### County Court Bulletin

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

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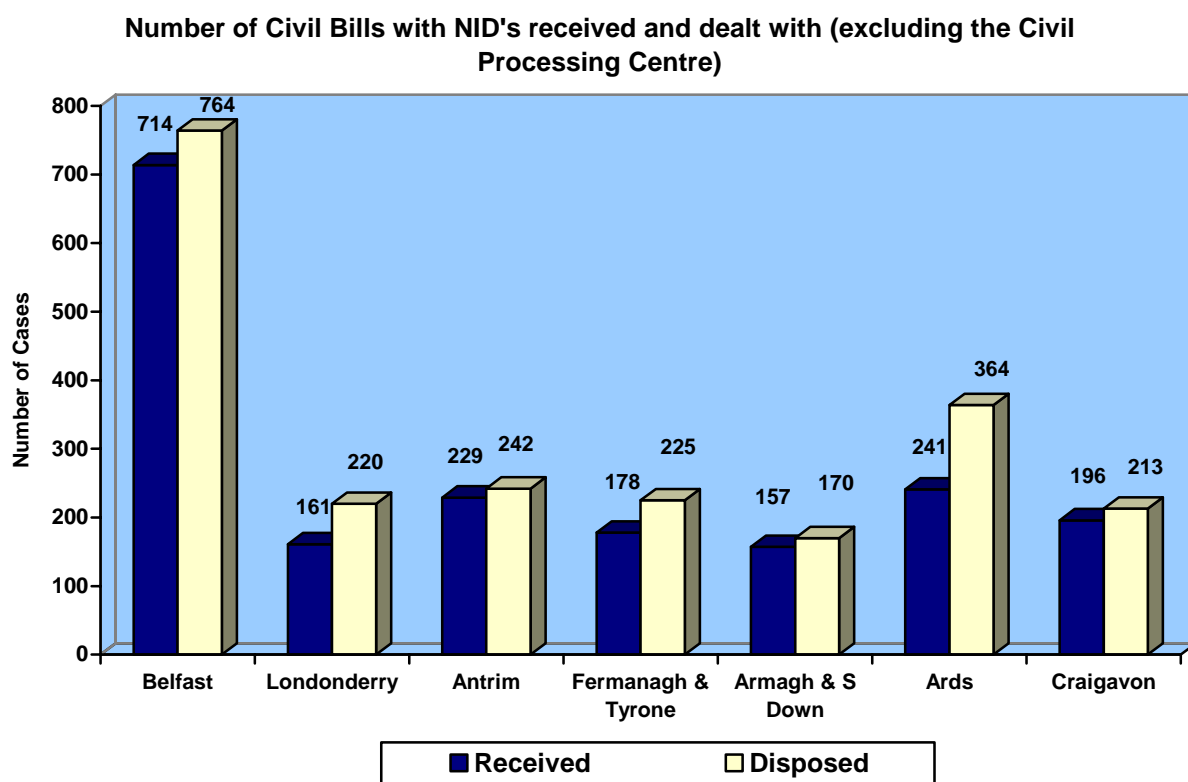
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**County court figures on Children Order cases, magistrates' appeals and county court appeals appear in other bulletins.**

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

## Summary

- There were 1,876 civil bills with NID's received during the quarter, and 2,940 Civil Bills disposed of, with 1,519 civil bills disposed of in court and 1,421 disposed of in the office.
- During the period there were 68 Equity cases received and 79 cases dealt with.
- There were 383 ejectment cases received and 203 ejectment cases disposed of during the reporting period.
- There were 3,765 small claims received and 3,406 disposed of during the period, of which 573 were disposed of in court and 1,901 were default judgments.
- In total, 285 Decrees Nisi were granted during the quarter, with 42% of these giving a reason of '2 years with consent'. There were 359 decrees absolute granted in the county court almost one fifth being granted in Belfast division (18%).
- There were 1,185 sitting days during the quarter with 56% of time being spent on criminal business.



## Civil Bills

**Table 1: Number of ordinary civil bill cases and applications received**

<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	223
	<b>Ards</b>	244
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	133
	<b>Belfast</b>	2656
	<b>Craigavon</b>	181
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	172
	<b>Londonderry</b>	156
	<b>Total</b>	3765
<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	136
	<b>Ards</b>	168
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	97
	<b>Belfast</b>	640
	<b>Craigavon</b>	129
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	101
	<b>Londonderry</b>	111
	<b>Total</b>	1382

**Table 2: Number of ordinary civil bill cases with NIDs received by judicial level**

	<b>County court judge</b>	<b>District judge</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Antrim</b>	151	78	229
<b>Ards</b>	187	54	241
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	110	47	157
<b>Belfast</b>	463	251	714
<b>Craigavon</b>	124	72	196
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	119	59	178
<b>Londonderry</b>	92	69	161
<b>Total</b>	1246	630	1876

Table 3: Number of ordinary civil bills cases and applications disposed

		Court result - CCJ	Court result - DDJ	Non court disposals	Default judgement	Office disposal	Total
<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	66	74	74	8	20	242
	<b>Ards</b>	182	87	64	15	16	364
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	70	61	24	1	14	170
	<b>Belfast</b>	324	210	121	22	87	764
	<b>Civil Processing Centre</b>			31	690	21	742
	<b>Craigavon</b>	50	64	60	9	30	213
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	99	66	44	6	10	225
	<b>Londonderry</b>	70	96	34	1	19	220
	<b>Total</b>	861	658	452	752	217	2940
	<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	26	8	19		
<b>Ards</b>		37	17	38			92
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>		20	18	23			61
<b>Belfast</b>		72	27	97			196
<b>Civil Processing Centre</b>				9			9
<b>Craigavon</b>		28	3	26			57
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>		26	17	26			69
<b>Londonderry</b>		48	33	19			100
<b>Total</b>		257	123	257			637

**Table 4: Number of ordinary civil bills cases by amount awarded**

		No value	Less than £1000	£1000-2999	£3000-4999	Over £5000	Total
<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	30	20	33	33	24	140
	<b>Ards</b>	42	26	70	78	53	269
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	32	15	33	26	25	131
	<b>Belfast</b>	192	51	119	97	75	534
	<b>Craigavon</b>	24	15	21	29	25	114
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	42	14	33	32	44	165
	<b>Londonderry</b>	69	14	37	28	18	166
	<b>Total</b>	431	155	346	323	264	1519

Excludes cases that were adjourned generally, default judgements or had office disposals

**Table 5: Outstanding civil bills with NID but no COR**

	County court judge	District judge	Total
<b>Antrim</b>	314	133	447
<b>Ards</b>	254	115	369
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	261	119	380
<b>Belfast</b>	1042	387	1429
<b>Craigavon</b>	316	119	435
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	264	106	370
<b>Londonderry</b>	243	136	379
<b>Total</b>	2694	1115	3809

**Table 6: Outstanding civil bills with COR**

	County court judge	District judge	Total
Antrim	98	36	134
Ards	128	43	171
Armagh and South Down	88	37	125
Belfast	362	117	479
Craigavon	99	57	156
Fermanagh and Tyrone	94	40	134
Londonderry	72	35	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>1306</b>

**Table 7: Time intervals in weeks for civil bill cases**

		Issue to disposal
<b>Case</b>	Antrim	42
	Ards	36
	Armagh and South Down	50
	Belfast	45
	Craigavon	49
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	54
	Londonderry	93
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

**Table 8: Time intervals in weeks for civil bill applications**

		<b>Issue to disposal</b>
<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	4
	<b>Ards</b>	5
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	5
	<b>Belfast</b>	5
	<b>Craigavon</b>	5
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	5
	<b>Londonderry</b>	44
	<b>Total</b>	13

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

## Equity

Table 9: Equity cases and applications received

Case	Antrim	3
	Ards	8
	Armagh and South Down	9
	Belfast	21
	Craigavon	9
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	8
	Londonderry	10
	Total	68
Application	Antrim	5
	Ards	3
	Armagh and South Down	3
	Belfast	2
	Craigavon	1
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	7
	Londonderry	7
	Total	28

**Table 10: Equity cases and applications disposed**

		<b>Court result</b>	<b>Non court disposals</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	7	1	8
	<b>Ards</b>	2	1	3
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	10		10
	<b>Belfast</b>	12		12
	<b>Craigavon</b>	8	1	9
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	18	6	24
	<b>Londonderry</b>	12	1	13
	<b>Total</b>	69	10	79
<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>		1	1
	<b>Ards</b>	4	1	5
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	1		1
	<b>Belfast</b>	1		1
	<b>Craigavon</b>	4		4
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	4	2	6
	<b>Londonderry</b>	9	2	11
	<b>Total</b>	23	6	29

**Table 11: Outstanding equity cases**

<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	45
	<b>Ards</b>	60
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	47
	<b>Belfast</b>	124
	<b>Craigavon</b>	33
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	57
	<b>Londonderry</b>	39
	<b>Total</b>	405

Table 12: Time intervals in weeks

		Issue to disposal
Case	Antrim	57
	Ards	118
	Armagh and South Down	53
	Belfast	81
	Craigavon	48
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	105
	Londonderry	113
	Total	84
Application	Ards	5
	Armagh and South Down	9
	Belfast	28
	Craigavon	14
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	6
	Londonderry	63
	Total	31

## Ejectment

**Table 13: Ejectment cases received**

<b>Case</b>	Antrim	46
	Ards	65
	Armagh and South Down	17
	Belfast	176
	Craigavon	63
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	8
	Londonderry	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>383</b>

**Table 14: Ejectment cases disposed**

		Court result	Non court disposals	Total
<b>Case</b>	Antrim	22	1	23
	Ards	35	1	36
	Armagh and South Down	13	1	14
	Belfast	79		79
	Craigavon	39		39
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	2		2
	Londonderry	10		10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>203</b>

**Table 15: Outstanding ejectment cases with NID**

<b>Case</b>	Antrim	4
	Ards	13
	Armagh and South Down	6
	Belfast	15
	Craigavon	9
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	7
	Londonderry	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>

**Table 16: Time intervals in weeks**

		<b>Issue to disposal</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	14
	<b>Ards</b>	12
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	14
	<b>Belfast</b>	13
	<b>Craigavon</b>	16
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	109
	<b>Londonderry</b>	47
	<b>Total</b>	16

Excludes default judgements, non-court disposals and office disposals

## Small Claims

**Table 17: Number of small claims cases and applications received**

<b>Case</b>	Antrim	41
	Ards	72
	Armagh and South Down	36
	Belfast	3505
	Craigavon	28
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	48
	Londonderry	35
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3765</b>
<b>Application</b>	Antrim	7
	Ards	10
	Armagh and South Down	5
	Belfast	33
	Craigavon	3
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	11
	Londonderry	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>

**Table 18: Number of small claims cases with NODs received**

<b>Case</b>	Antrim	55
	Ards	67
	Armagh and South Down	45
	Belfast	193
	Craigavon	38
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	45
	Londonderry	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>476</b>	

**Table 19: Number of small claims cases and applications disposed**

		Court disposal	Non court disposal	Office disposal	Default judgement	Total
<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	59	10	6	6	81
	<b>Ards</b>	97	1	55	3	156
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	67		3	2	72
	<b>Belfast</b>	180	6	821	1885	2892
	<b>Craigavon</b>	52	1	16	1	70
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	66	1	8	3	78
	<b>Londonderry</b>	52		4	1	57
	<b>Total</b>	573	19	913	1901	3406
<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	4				4
	<b>Ards</b>	8				8
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	2				2
	<b>Belfast</b>	39	1			40
	<b>Craigavon</b>	6				6
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	7				7
	<b>Londonderry</b>	3				3
	<b>Total</b>	69	1			70

**Table 20: Outstanding small claims with NOD**

<b>Antrim</b>	111
<b>Ards</b>	153
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	77
<b>Belfast</b>	327
<b>Craigavon</b>	98
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	109
<b>Londonderry</b>	76
<b>Total</b>	951

Table 21: Time intervals in weeks

		Issue to disposal
Case	Antrim	19
	Ards	18
	Armagh and South Down	17
	Belfast	21
	Craigavon	22
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	26
	Londonderry	19
	Total	20
Application	Antrim	3
	Ards	8
	Armagh and South Down	7
	Belfast	6
	Craigavon	10
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	8
	Londonderry	4
	Total	6

Excludes default judgements, non-court disposals and office disposals

## Criminal Damage

**Table 22: Number of criminal damage cases and applications received**

<b>Case</b>	<b>Belfast</b>	4
	<b>Craigavon</b>	1
	<b>Londonderry</b>	1
	<b>Total</b>	6
<b>Application</b>	<b>Londonderry</b>	1
	<b>Total</b>	1

**Table 23: Number of criminal damage cases and applications disposed**

		<b>Court disposal</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>Belfast</b>	14	14
	<b>Total</b>	14	14

**Table 24: Outstanding criminal damage cases**

<b>Antrim</b>	1
<b>Ards</b>	2
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	9
<b>Belfast</b>	90
<b>Craigavon</b>	19
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	12
<b>Londonderry</b>	14
<b>Total</b>	147

**Table 25: Time intervals in weeks**

		<b>Issue to disposal</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>Belfast</b>	123
	<b>Total</b>	123

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

## Divorces

**Table 26: Divorce Petitions by type of decree nisi**

	2 years with consent	5 years separation	Adultery	Unreasonable behaviour	Combination of grounds/other	Total
Antrim	12	17	1	5	5	40
Ards	23	13	1	1		38
Armagh and South Down	18	18	2	6	2	46
Belfast	31	27		3	5	66
Craigavon	17	10		1		28
Family Division				1		1
Fermanagh and Tyrone	7	12	2	1	5	27
Londonderry	13	18		6	2	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>285</b>

**Table 27: Divorce petitions by number of absolutes issued**

	2 years with consent	5 years separation	Adultery	Unreasonable behaviour	Combination of grounds/other	Total
Antrim	30	21	1	4	4	60
Ards	27	13	2			42
Armagh and South Down	19	18	1	2	2	42
Belfast	31	30	1	2	2	66
Craigavon	29	16		4	5	54
Fermanagh and Tyrone	13	9	2	7	2	33
Londonderry	23	21		13	5	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>359</b>

**Table 28: Matrimonial applications received**

	Ancillary relief	Matrimonial application to a master	Other	Total
Antrim	12		2	14
Ards	3			3
Armagh and South Down	8			8
Belfast	4		37	41
Craigavon	10		1	11
Fermanagh and Tyrone	8			8
Londonderry	13	2	5	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>105</b>

**Table 29: Matrimonial applications disposed**

	Ancillary relief	Other	Total
Antrim	7	2	9
Ards	2		2
Armagh and South Down	13		13
Belfast	2	1	3
Craigavon	6	1	7
Fermanagh and Tyrone	10	1	11
Londonderry	18	4	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>67</b>

**Table 30: Time intervals in weeks for divorce petitions**

	Issue to date decree nisi granted	Date decree nisi granted to date absolute issued
Antrim	26	7
Ards	22	8
Armagh and South Down	41	7
Belfast	38	8
Craigavon	27	7
Family Division	20	.
Fermanagh and Tyrone	38	9
Londonderry	30	8
Total	32	8

**Table 31: Time intervals in weeks for  
divorce applications**

	Issue to disposal
Antrim	43
Ards	39
Armagh and South Down	61
Belfast	24
Craigavon	30
Fermanagh and Tyrone	36
Londonderry	58
Total	48

Excludes non-court disposals

## Licences

Table 32: Licences received and disposed

	Licenses Received	Licences Disposed
Antrim	12	6
Ards	4	1
Armagh and South Down	4	7
Belfast	22	5
Craigavon	5	1
Fermanagh and Tyrone	30	13
Londonderry	3	2
Total	80	35

**Table 33: County Court Sitting Days**

	Total time			Total criminal time	Total civil time	Total family time
	Number of sitting days	Average sitting	Total time			
<b>Antrim</b>	133	2:46	369:02	247:07	117:05	4:50
<b>Ards</b>	123	2:38	323:13	129:25	175:35	18:13
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	124	2:42	334:13	141:03	158:45	34:25
<b>Belfast</b>	434	2:51	1234:10	757:51	366:09	105:13
<b>Craigavon</b>	112	3:10	355:17	195:05	112:15	47:57
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	115	2:34	295:50	147:24	125:50	22:36
<b>Londonderry</b>	144	3:06	447:21	271:29	124:57	50:55
<b>Total</b>	1185	2:50	3359:08	1889:25	1180:37	284:09

A court sitting day is counted as any day where the judiciary sit in court. It does not include time in chambers or days where the judiciary are sitting in chambers