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Northern Ireland Court Service

Children's Order Quarterly Bulletin

July – September 2005



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

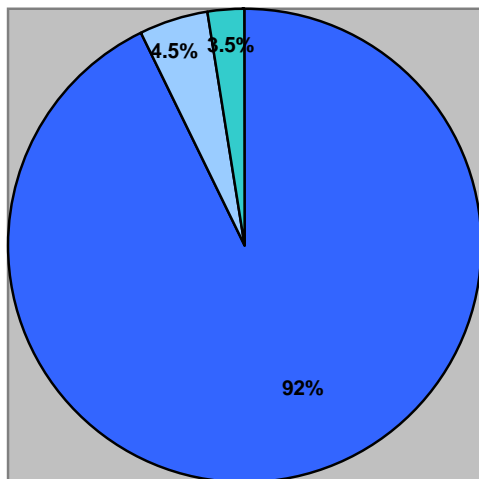
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Summary

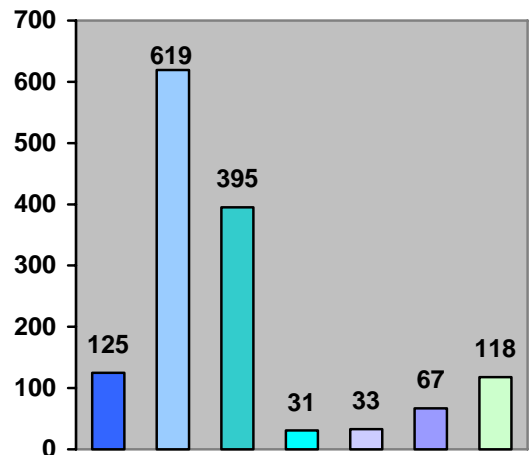
- There were 1,436 applications entered during the period, of which:
159 = Public
1,277 = Private
- There were 1,388 applications dealt with during the period, of which:
137 = Public
1,251 = Private
- There were 27 cases transferred during the period, (with 30 reasons).
- The majority of own motion orders made were in relation to Contact and Care issues.
- The majority of interim orders made were in relation to Care and Contact issues.
- Court time spent on Children Order business between July to September 2005:
Total time = 868 hours 34 minutes
Ave. sitting time = 2 hours 28 minutes
- There were 1,380 orders made between July to September 2005.
- The average waiting time in weeks between lodgement to disposal for public law cases:
High Court = 23 weeks
FCC = 45 weeks
FPC = 23 weeks
Nb. This does not include time at other court tiers unless specified.
- There were 970 children involved in Children Order Proceedings during the period.

Figure 1: Number of applications received by court tier



■ Family Proceedings = 93%
■ Family Care Centre = 4.5%
■ High Court = 3.5%

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	132	113
	Magistrates' Court	2	2
	Family Care Centre	16	15
	High Court	9	7
	Total	159	137
Private Law	Family Proceedings Court	1200	1177
	Family Care Centre	49	45
	High Court	28	29
	Total	1277	1251

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	10	20	165	176
	Craigavon	14	15	69	71
	Londonderry	20	9	157	202
	Newry	8	10	153	102
	Newtownards	13	19	233	165
	Belfast	51	20	287	286
	Dungannon	9	14	65	104
	Craigavon@Lisburn	7	6	71	71
	Venue total	132	113	1200	1177
Magistrates' Court	Craigavon	0	0	.	.
	Lisburn	2	2	.	.
	Venue total	2	2	.	.
Family Care Centre	Craigavon	7	3	6	3
	Londonderry	0	0	9	3
	Belfast	7	9	20	26
	Dungannon	2	3	14	13
	Venue total	16	15	49	45
High Court	Probate & Matrimonial	.	.	3	10
	Wardship & Adoption	9	7	25	19
	Venue total	9	7	28	29

[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	159	137	1277	1251

Table 2: Reasons for transfer [1]

								Total
		Urgency	Gravity	Importance	Complexity	Case linked - Consolidation	Other	
Family Proceedings Court	Ballymena	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
	Craigavon	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
	Londonderry	.	.	.	4	.	1	5
	Newry	.	.	.	4	1	1	6
	Newtownards	.	.	.	3	.	1	4
	Dungannon	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
	Craigavon@Lisburn	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
	Dungannon@Omagh	3	.	1	.	.	.	4
	Venue total	4	.	1	13	2	3	23
Magistrates	Craigavon	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
	Venue total	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
Family Care Centre	Londonderry	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
	Dungannon	.	2	.	2	.	.	4
	Venue total	.	2	.	2	.	1	5
N Ireland		4	2	1	17	2	4	30

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	6
Contact: Permission - Own Motion Orders	83
Contact: Refusal - Own Motion Orders	4
Residence - Own Motion Orders	33
Prohibited Steps - Own Motion Orders	0
Specific Issues - Own Motion Orders	2
Family Assistance - Own Motion Orders	1
Care - Own Motion Orders	40
Supervision - Own Motion Orders	13
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	0
Article 53 Contract - Own Motion Orders	0
Appointment of Guardian under Part XV - Own Motion Orders	2
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	3
Total	189

Table 4: Total interim orders

	Interim orders
Parental Responsibility - Interim/Short-term Orders	15
Contact: Permission - Interim/Short-term Orders	730
Contact: Refusal - Interim/Short-term Orders	15
Residence - Interim/Short-term Orders	209
Prohibited Steps - Interim/Short-term Orders	32
Specific Issues - Interim/Short-term Orders	4
Family Assistance - Interim/Short-term Orders	1
Care - Interim/Short-term Orders	739
Supervision - Interim/Short-term Orders	30
Education Supervision - Interim/Short-term Orders	0
Child Assessment - Interim/Short-term Orders	0
Emergency Protection - Interim/Short-term Orders	1
Extension of EPO - Interim/Short-term Orders	4
Recovery - Interim/Short-term Orders	0
Secure Accommodation - Interim/Short-term Orders	38
Article 53 Contract - Interim/Short-term Orders	4
Appointment of Guardian under Part XV - Interim/Short-term Orders	4
Contribution and other Financial - Interim/Short-term Orders	0
Non-Molestation Order - Interim/Short-term Orders	18
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	3
Total	1849

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	51:25:00	3:57:18	13	42	277
	Craigavon	21:25:00	2:22:46	9	86	130
	Enniskillen	0:30:00	0:15:00	2	0	3
	Londonderry	108:20:00	5:09:31	21	211	491
	Newry	67:50:00	4:14:22	16	130	654
	Newtownards	94:10:00	2:28:41	38	195	937
	Belfast	148:20:00	2:44:48	54	305	1131
	Ballymena @ Larne	10:55:00	1:49:10	6	25	32
	Ballymena @ Coleraine	21:55:00	4:23:00	5	30	125
	Ballymena @ Antrim	14:00:00	3:30:00	4	15	63
	Dungannon	19:30:00	3:15:00	6	63	81
	Craigavon@Lisburn	25:55:00	2:52:46	9	86	307
	Dungannon@Omagh	44:45:00	4:28:30	10	54	229
	Londonderry@Ards	0:45:00	0:45:00	1	0	1
	Venue total	629:45:00	3:14:46	194	1242	4461
Magistrates' Court	Larne	1:15:00	0:15:00	5	0	2
	Venue total	1:15:00	0:15:00	5	0	2
Family Care Centre	Craigavon	16:05:00	2:17:51	7	4	27
	Londonderry	49:40:00	2:09:33	23	3	27
	Belfast	58:24:00	1:11:30	49	33	134
	Dungannon	13:00:00	1:51:25	7	12	11
	Craigavon@Laganside	4:35:00	2:17:30	2	2	2
	Venue total	141:44:00	1:36:38	88	54	201
	High Court	Probate & Matrimonial	19:25:00	1:17:40	15	12	54
Wardship & Adoption		76:25:00	1:31:42	50	19	167
Venue total		95:50:00	1:28:27	65	31	221

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	868:34:00	2:28:03	352	1327	4885

[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	2	1	71	13	3	11
Contact Permission	18	5	457	42	22	77
Contact Refusal	.	2	1	9	3	2
Residence	19	1	257	51	13	49
Prohibited Steps	.	.	7	9	5	5
Specific Issues	2	1	12	8	2	6
Care	3	.	16	11	.	23
Supervision	.	.	9	2	.	.
Education Supervision	2	.	3	.	.	.
Emergency Protection	.	.	.	3	.	.
Extension of EPO	.	.	.	.	.	3
Family Assistance	.	.	1	.	.	.
Appointment of Guardian	2	.	15	7	0	8
Non-molestation	0	0	0	1	0	1
Article 56	0	0	1	0	0	0
Secure Accommodation	1	.	4	1	.	3
Article 53 Contact	.	.	2	.	.	.
Contribution & Financial	.	.	1	1	1	1
Other orders	1	1	5	4	3	6
Total	50	11	862	162	52	195

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	18
Care Order	5
Contact with a child in care	2
Dismiss Order	1
Family Assistance Order	1
Leave to change surname by which child is known	1
Leave to remove child from UK	6
Leave to withdraw	8
Residence order	6
Total	48

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	.	.	19.96	26
	Cookstown	0.00	1	.	.
	Craigavon	20.93	8	14.48	31
	Londonderry	8.03	10	23.07	74
	Newry	17.91	5	20.97	42
	Newtownards	36.08	7	27.21	98
	Belfast	27.73	10	20.64	127
	Ballymena@Larne	29.97	5	10.23	8
	Ballymena@Coleraine	34.36	2	22.79	16
	Ballymena@Antrim	.	.	17.02	8
	Dungannon	33.00	1	19.80	24
	Craigavon@Lisburn	35.39	4	26.51	38
	Dungannon @Omagh	17.25	4	13.02	17
	Total	23.32	57	21.87	509
Family Care Centre	Craigavon	76.00	1	13.79	2
	Londonderry	.	.	1.86	2
	Belfast	14.00	1	32.49	10
	Total	45.00	2	25.44	14
High Court	Probate & Matrimonial	.	.	27.70	3
	Wardship & Adoption	22.90	5	14.60	11
	Total	22.90	5	17.40	14

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	23.96	64	21.85	537

Table 8: Age and gender of children

	0-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	Total
Male	149	147	133	53	482
Female	174	149	91	57	471
Unknown	5	8	4	.	17
Total	328	304	228	110	970