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Northern Ireland Court Service

Crown Court Bulletin

April - June 2005



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Northern Ireland
**Statistics &
Research**
Agency

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Important Notes:

Figures are run from an administrative 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 April to June 2005. As stats forms are completed when the case has finished, figures for this period may change.

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

The classification of bail and custody at remand, committal or arraignment is based on the status the defendant was at the first date of remand, committal or arraignment. It does not take into account if the status of the defendant changed between these dates.

The classification of bail and custody from hearing to disposal, and remand to disposal is based on status at arraignment.

Waiting times do not exclude recess.

Summary

- **Cases received and dealt with:**

There were 300 Crown cases received during April to June 2005. This is a decrease on the 386 received during April to June 2004. The cases dealt with have increased by 24% from 352 in April to June 2004, to 438 in 2005.

- **Remand to Committal:**

The average time in weeks from remand to committal is 24.5 weeks, almost the same as April to June 2004 (24.6 weeks). The defendants in custody took on average almost twice as long as those on bail.

- **Committal to Arraignment:**

The average time in weeks from committal to arraignment is 7 weeks, an increase of 1 week on April to June 2004 (6 weeks).

- **Arraignment to Hearing:**

The average time in weeks from arraignment to hearing is 11 weeks, 3 weeks more than April to June 2004 (8 weeks). Those defendants on bail took on average 4 weeks longer than those defendants in custody.

- **Remand to Disposal:**

On average, defendants being disposed of in the Crown Court between April to June 2005, took just under a year (51 weeks) to complete the court process.

- **Total defendants dealt with:**

There were 530 defendants dealt with in the Crown Court between April to June 2005, an increase on the 416 (27%) dealt with during the same period last year.

Crown Court Cases Dealt With (April - June)

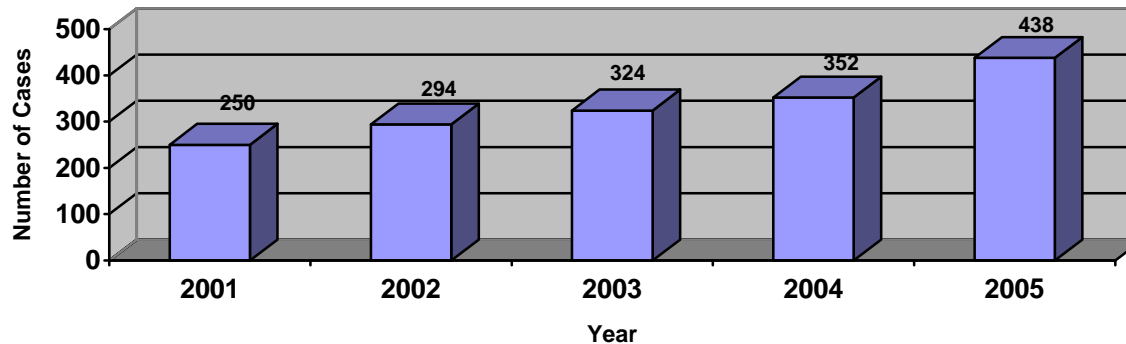


Table 1: Crown Court cases received and dealt with

	Crown court cases received	Dealt with
Belfast Scheduled	14	17
Belfast non-scheduled	84	145
Londonderry	34	27
Antrim	32	57
Fermanagh & Tyrone	33	80
Armagh & S Down	17	14
Ards	51	61
Craigavon	35	37
Total	300	438

Table 2: Time between remand to committal

		Bail		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)
Scheduled		11	37.9	19	46.0	30	43.0
Non-scheduled		294	16.4	206	33.3	500	23.4
Total		305	17.2	225	34.4	530	24.5

Table 3: Time between committal to arraignment

		Bail		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)
Scheduled		22	10.6	8	6.7	30	9.5
Non-scheduled		362	7.5	138	6.1	500	7.1
Total		384	7.6	146	6.1	530	7.2

Table 4: Time between committal to hearing

		Bail		Custody		Mixed		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)
Scheduled		22	27.0	7	35.1	1	24.0	30	28.8
Non-scheduled		345	20.0	129	13.1	26	16.7	500	18.0
Total		367	20.4	136	14.2	27	16.9	530	18.7

Table 5: Time between arraignment to hearing

		Bail		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)
Scheduled		23	16.5	7	28.2	30	19.2
Non-scheduled		354	12.4	146	7.6	500	11.0
Total		377	12.6	153	8.5	530	11.4

Table 6: Time between hearing to disposal

		Bail		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)
Scheduled		23	8.3	7	11.9	30	9.1
Non-scheduled		354	8.5	146	7.6	500	8.2
Total		377	8.4	153	7.8	530	8.3

Nb. Defendants split into bail and custody on the basis of their status at arraignment

Table 7: Time between remand to disposal

	Bail		Custody		Total	
	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (weeks)
Scheduled	23	79.4	7	86.2	30	81.0
Non-scheduled	354	50.2	146	48.2	500	49.7
Total	377	52.0	153	49.9	530	51.4

Nb. Defendants split into bail and custody on the basis of their status at arraignment

Table 8: Total defendants dealt with

	Bail		Custody		Total	
	No. of defendants	%	No. of defendants	%	No. of defendants	%
Scheduled	23	77%	7	23%	30	100%
Non-scheduled	354	71%	146	29%	500	100%
Total	377	71%	153	29%	530	100%

Table 9: Outcome of defendants

	Mixed outcome	Pleaded guilty on all charges	Pleaded not guilty - convicted on all charges	Pleaded not guilty - nolle on all charges	Pleaded not guilty - no bill on all charges	Pleaded not guilty - acquitted on all charges	Found unfit to plead on all charges	Total
Belfast scheduled	6	8	2	3	1	10	.	30
Belfast non-scheduled	46	92	3	1	1	22	1	166
Londonderry	14	18	1	.	.	3	.	36
Antrim	23	46	.	.	.	2	.	71
Fermanagh & Tyrone	23	54	4	7	1	9	.	98
Armagh & S Down	5	9	.	1	.	1	.	16
Ards	12	52	1	1	.	3	.	69
Craigavon	9	23	2	1	.	9	.	44
Total	138	302	13	14	3	59	1	530

Table 10: Crown Court Sittings

	Average Sitting Time	Number of Sittings
Belfast Crown	1:51:32	331
Londonderry	2:46:47	81
Antrim	2:45:10	83
Fermanagh	3:22:22	108
Armagh	2:19:06	50
Newtownards	2:09:42	57
Craigavon	3:12:37	55
Total	2:25:00	765

Appendix 1 – Waiting Time in Days for Crown Court Proceedings from January to June 2005

Time between Remand to Committal

		Bail/Mixed		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)
Scheduled		15	272.5	30	339.9	45	317.4
Non-scheduled		511	120.1	351	232.3	862	165.8
Total		526	124.4	381	240.8	907	173.3

Time between Committal to Arraignment

		Bail/Mixed		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)
Scheduled		34	67.6	11	54.9	45	64.5
Non-scheduled		628	57.2	234	44.3	862	53.7
Total		662	57.8	245	44.8	907	54.2

Time between Committal to Hearing

		Bail/Mixed		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)
Scheduled		35	193.3	10	205.6	45	196.0
Non-scheduled		644	137.2	218	99.7	862	127.7
Total		679	140.1	228	104.4	907	131.1

Time between Arraignment to Hearing

		Bail/Mixed		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)
Scheduled		35	126.5	10	149.0	45	131.5
Non-scheduled		618	81.0	244	56.3	862	74.0
Total		653	83.5	254	59.9	907	76.9

Time between Hearing to Disposal

		Bail/Mixed		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)
Scheduled		35	66.6	10	77.6	45	69.1
Non-scheduled		618	60.7	244	56.2	862	59.4
Total		653	61.0	254	57.0	907	59.9

Nb. Defendants split into bail and custody on the basis of their status at arraignment.

Time between Remand to Disposal

		Bail/Mixed		Custody		Total	
		No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)	No. of Defendants	Ave. Time (days)
Scheduled		35	589.8	10	557.1	45	582.5
Non-scheduled		618	351.9	244	355.7	862	353.0
Total		653	364.6	254	363.6	907	364.3

Nb. Defendants split into bail and custody on the basis of their status at arraignment.