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Northern Ireland Court Service

Crown Court Bulletin

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Northern Ireland
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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 October to December 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 324 Crown cases received during October to December 2005. This is a decrease on the 345 received during October to December 2004. The cases dealt with have also decreased by 20% from 393 in October to December 2004, to 315 in 2005.

- **Remand to Committal:**

The average time in weeks from remand to committal is 24 weeks, a decrease of 1 week on October to December 2004 (25 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, the same as October to December 2004 (7 weeks).

- **Arraignment to Hearing:**

The average time in weeks from arraignment to hearing is 12 weeks, 4 weeks more than October to December 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 October to December 2005, took just under a year (51 weeks) to complete the court process.

- **Total defendants dealt with:**

There were 378 defendants dealt with in the Crown Court between October to December 2005, a decrease on the 446 (15%) dealt with during the same period last year.

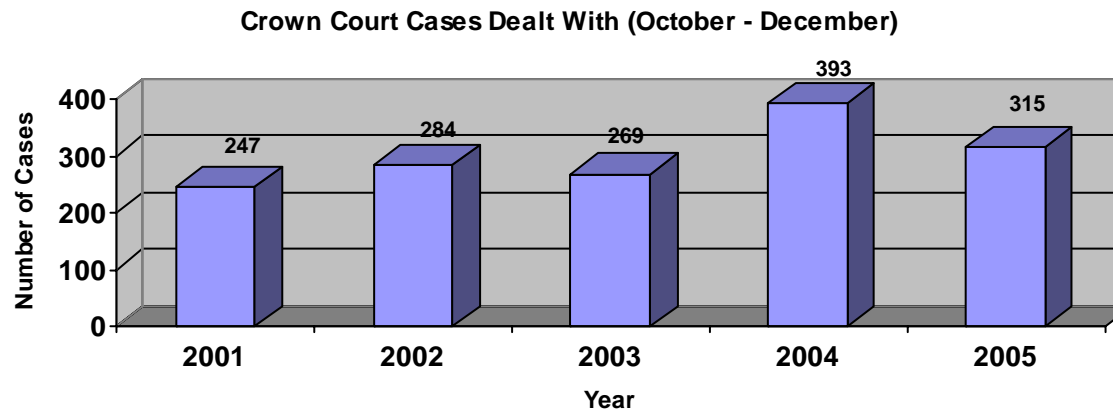


Table 1: Crown Court cases received and dealt with

	Crown court cases received	Dealt with
Belfast Scheduled	8	10
Belfast non-scheduled	113	104
Londonderry	22	38
Antrim	43	26
Fermanagh & Tyrone	45	44
Armagh & S Down	29	19
Ards	41	37
Craigavon	23	37
Total	324	315

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		3	11.7	17	51.9	20	45.9
Non-scheduled		232	18.5	126	30.2	358	22.6
Total		235	18.4	143	32.7	378	23.9

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		12	5.4	8	6.6	20	5.9
Non-scheduled		270	7.8	88	6.2	358	7.4
Total		282	7.7	96	6.2	378	7.4

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	12	34.7	8	23.1	.	.	20	30.0
Non-scheduled	268	18.4	83	13.7	7	75.7	358	18.5
Total	280	19.1	91	14.5	7	75.7	378	19.1

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	12	29.3	8	16.4	20	24.1
Non-scheduled	273	12.1	85	7.6	358	11.0
Total	285	12.8	93	8.4	378	11.7

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	12	10.5	8	12.6	20	11.4
Non-scheduled	273	7.3	85	7.8	358	7.4
Total	285	7.4	93	8.2	378	7.6

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	12	95.7	8	74.7	20	87.3
Non-scheduled	273	46.5	85	54.8	358	48.5
Total	285	48.6	93	56.5	378	50.5

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	12	60%	8	40%	20	100%
Non-scheduled	273	76%	85	24%	358	100%
Total	285	75%	93	25%	378	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	8	5	1	2	.	4	.	20
Belfast non-scheduled	26	70	2	2	1	4	2	107
Londonderry	19	18	1	1	.	9	.	48
Antrim	5	25	1	1	.	1	.	33
Fermanagh & Tyrone	18	29	2	.	.	6	.	55
Armagh & S Down	9	11	.	1	.	5	.	26
Ards	3	31	2	.	1	3	.	40
Craigavon	11	26	2	5	.	5	.	49
Total	99	215	11	12	2	37	2	378

Table 10: Crown Court Sitings

	Average Sitting Time	Number of Sitings
Belfast	2:10:54	291
Londonderry	2:56:05	82
Antrim	2:53:46	49
Fermanagh	2:30:01	66
Armagh	2:40:52	49
Newtownards	1:46:07	68
Craigavon	2:46:57	62
Total	2:24:08	667

Appendix 1 – Waiting Time in Days for Crown Court Proceedings from January to December 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		21	230.7	69	308.7	90	290.5
Non-scheduled		857	120.1	554	227.4	1411	162.2
Total		878	122.7	623	236.4	1501	169.9

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		64	53.4	26	48.0	90	51.8
Non-scheduled		1036	55.0	375	45.7	1411	52.5
Total		1100	54.9	401	45.8	1501	52.4

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		65	189.3	25	195.5	90	191.0
Non-scheduled		1063	135.4	348	98.7	1411	126.4
Total		1128	138.5	373	105.2	1501	130.3

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	65	136.2	25	147.1	90	139.2
Non-scheduled	1030	81.2	381	54.2	1411	73.9
Total	1095	84.4	406	59.9	1501	77.8

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	65	70.4	25	86.0	90	74.7
Non-scheduled	1030	59.2	381	57.3	1411	58.7
Total	1095	59.8	406	59.1	1501	59.6

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	65	558.9	25	549.4	90	556.3
Non-scheduled	1030	339.9	381	367.3	1411	347.3
Total	1095	352.9	406	378.5	1501	359.8

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