

serving  
the community  
through the  
administration  
of justice

## **Northern Ireland Court Service**

### **Crown Court Bulletin**

**January - March 2005**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

[www.courtsni.gov](http://www.courtsni.gov)



## **Contents**

<b>Table 1</b>	<b>Crown Court Cases Received and Dealt with</b>
<b>Table 2</b>	<b>Time Between Remand to Committal</b>
<b>Table 3</b>	<b>Time Between Committal to Arraignment</b>
<b>Table 4</b>	<b>Time Between Committal to Hearing</b>
<b>Table 5</b>	<b>Time between Arraignment to Hearing</b>
<b>Table 6</b>	<b>Time Between Hearing to Disposal</b>
<b>Table 7</b>	<b>Time Between Remand to Disposal</b>
<b>Table 8</b>	<b>Total Defendants Dealt With</b>
<b>Table 9</b>	<b>Outcome of Charges</b>
<b>Table 10</b>	<b>Crown Court Sittings</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>Waiting Time in Days for Crown Court Proceedings from January to March 2005</b>

### **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 January to March 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 342 Crown cases received during January to March 2005. This is a decrease on the 360 received during January to March 2004. The cases dealt with have also decreased by 16% from 356 in January to March 2004, to 300 in 2005.

- **Remand to Committal:**

The average time in weeks from remand to committal is 25 weeks, an increase of 1 week on January to March 2004 (24 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 8.5 weeks, an increase of 3 weeks on January to March 2004 (5.5 weeks).

- **Arraignment to Hearing:**

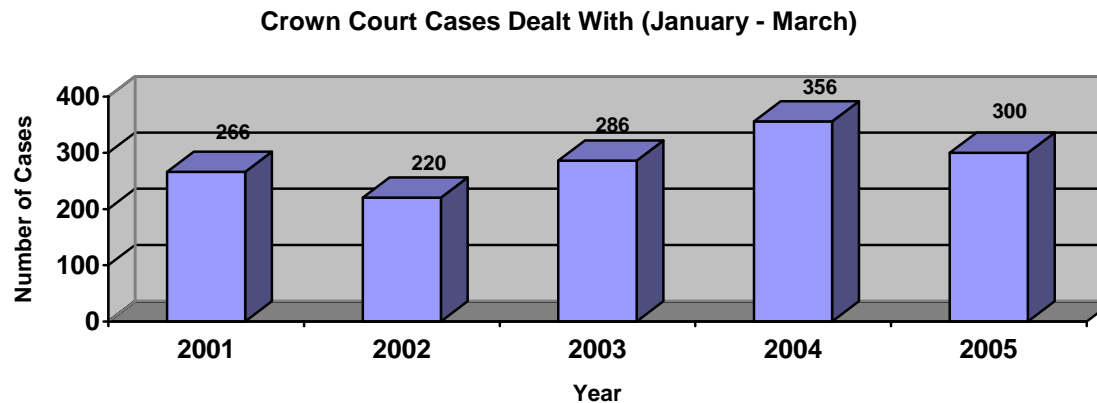
The average time in weeks from arraignment to hearing is 10 weeks, 2 weeks more than January to March 2004 (8 weeks). Those defendants on bail took on average 2 weeks longer than those defendants in custody.

- **Remand to Disposal:**

On average, defendants being disposed of in the Crown Court between January to March 2005, took just over a year (53 weeks) to complete the court process.

- **Total defendants dealt with:**

There were 377 defendants dealt with in the Crown Court between January to March 2005, a decrease on the 451 (16%) 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	17	12
Belfast non-scheduled	119	89
Londonderry	32	24
Antrim	34	53
Fermanagh & Tyrone	48	36
Armagh & S Down	23	22
Ards	41	43
Craigavon	28	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>300</b>

**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	4	41.8	11	52.9	15	50.0
Non-scheduled	217	18.1	145	33.0	362	24.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>25.1</b>

**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	8.0	3	11.0	15	8.6
Non-scheduled	266	9.1	96	6.7	362	8.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>8.5</b>

**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	29.1	3	16.1	.	.	15	26.5
Non-scheduled		257	19.3	89	15.9	16	20.2	362	18.5
<b>Total</b>		269	19.8	92	15.9	16	20.2	377	18.8

**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	21.1	3	5.1	15	17.9
Non-scheduled		264	10.5	98	8.7	362	10.0
<b>Total</b>		276	11.0	101	8.6	377	10.3

**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	11.8	3	9.2	15	11.3
Non-scheduled		264	9.0	98	8.6	362	8.9
<b>Total</b>		276	9.1	101	8.6	377	9.0

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	93.7	3	64.1	15	87.8
Non-scheduled	264	50.3	98	54.7	362	51.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>52.9</b>

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	80%	3	20%	15	100%
Non-scheduled	264	73%	98	27%	362	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>100%</b>

**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	Total
Belfast scheduled	3	9	1	.	.	2	15
Belfast non-scheduled	35	62	3	2	1	9	112
Londonderry	6	16	4	1	.	3	30
Antrim	17	41	1	4	.	4	67
Fermanagh & Tyrone	14	27	.	2	.	4	47
Armagh & S Down	11	10	1	.	.	8	30
Ards	14	30	2	4	.	1	51
Craigavon	6	10	.	1	2	6	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>377</b>

**Table 10: Crown Court Sitings**

	<b>Average Sitting Time</b>	<b>Number of Sittings</b>
<b>Belfast Crown</b>	1:29:33	278
<b>Belfast County</b>	0:32:30	2
<b>Londonderry</b>	2:19:19	67
<b>Antrim</b>	2:32:31	83
<b>Fermanagh</b>	2:58:43	57
<b>Armagh</b>	2:14:41	55
<b>Newtownards</b>	1:59:02	57
<b>Craigavon</b>	2:09:43	53
<b>Total</b>	1:59:57	652

**Appendix 1 – Waiting Time in Days for Crown Court Proceedings from January to March 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		4	292.5	11	370.5	15	349.7
Non-scheduled		217	127.0	145	231.0	362	168.6
<b>Total</b>		221	130.0	156	240.8	377	175.8

**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		12	55.7	3	76.7	15	59.9
Non-scheduled		266	64.0	96	46.7	362	59.4
<b>Total</b>		278	63.7	99	47.6	377	59.5

**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		12	203.7	3	112.7	15	185.5
Non-scheduled		273	135.6	89	111.4	362	129.7
<b>Total</b>		285	138.5	92	111.4	377	131.9

### 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		12	148.0	3	36.0	15	125.6
Non-scheduled		264	73.6	98	61.2	362	70.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>276</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>72.4</b>

### 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		12	82.8	3	64.7	15	79.1
Non-scheduled		264	62.8	98	60.2	362	62.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>276</b>	<b>63.7</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>60.3</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>62.8</b>

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		12	655.6	3	449.0	15	614.3
Non-scheduled		264	352.1	98	382.8	362	360.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>276</b>	<b>365.3</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>384.8</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>370.5</b>

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