

26th February 2010
PRESS RELEASE



NORTHERN IRELAND

**COURT
SERVICE**

QUARTERLY CHILDREN ORDER STATISTICS

Figures published today by the Northern Ireland Court Service in the quarterly Children Order bulletin outline the business received and dealt with through the courts for the quarter October – December 2009.

Business covered by the Children Order Bulletin comes under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and relates to issues such as contact, residence and care and supervision in relation to children.

During the quarter:

- 1,320 children were involved in Children Order Proceedings
- 1,026 applications were dealt with during the period,
- 2,248 children orders were made

END

STATISTICS PRESS RELEASE

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Figures contained in the Children Order Bulletin are available on the Court Service Website at **www.courtsni.gov.uk**
2. The statistics are run from an administrative database and may change due to late returns and further validations.
3. Children Order Summary statistics Oct – Dec 2009
 - There were 1,075 applications (Fig 1) entered during the period, of which:
85 = Public and 990 = Private
 - There were 1,026 applications dealt with during the period, of which:
137 = Public and 889 = Private
 - There were 156 cases transferred during the period with 161 reasons for transfer (Fig 2).
 - Of the own motion orders made, 43% were in relation to Contact issues.
 - The majority of interim orders made were in relation to Contact (2,120) and Care (1,536) issues.
 - Court time spent on Children Order business between October and December 2009:
Total time = 1220 hours 31 minutes
Average sitting time = 2 hours 37 minutes
 - There were 2,248 orders made from October and December 2009.
 - The average waiting time in weeks from lodgement to disposal for public law cases was 48 weeks.
 - The average waiting time in weeks between lodgement to disposal for private law cases was 26 weeks.
 - There were 1,320 children involved in Children Order Proceedings during the period, of which 36% were under the age of five.

Figure 1: Number of Applications received by court tier

Family Proceedings	93%
Family Care Centre	3%
High Court	4%

Figure 2: Reasons for Transfer

Public Interest	Public Interest	Point of Law	Urgency	Separate Representation for Child	Returned to Lower Court	Jurisdiction	Gravity	Convenience	Consolidation	Complexity
1	1	7	1	2	2	18	13	4	26	87

If you have any further queries in this or other court related matters please contact:

Communications Group
Northern Ireland Court Service
Laganside House
23-27 Oxford Street
Belfast
BT1 3LA
Tel. 028 9041 2387