

**19 February 2010
PRESS RELEASE**



NORTHERN IRELAND

**COURT
SERVICE**

QUARTERLY CIVIL COURT STATISTICS

Figures published today by the Northern Ireland Court Service in the quarterly bulletins from the High Court and County Court outline the business received and dealt with through the civil courts for the quarter October – December 2009.

Business covered by the High Court Bulletin covers matters as diverse as bankruptcy, negligence cases and divorce. During the quarter covered:

- 473 bankruptcy cases were lodged in the Chancery division,
- 61% of the 1952 writs received in Queen's Bench Division consisted of negligence cases, and
- a total of 673 divorce petitions were lodged.

The County Court deals with Civil Bill cases up to a maximum claim value of £15K.

During this quarter:

- 3155 civil claims were dealt with and 1986 were received,
- 3102 Small Claims were received, and
- 46 Equity cases were dealt with.

END

STATISTICS PRESS RELEASE

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Figures contained in the Quarterly High Court and County Court Bulletin are available on the Court Service Website under the publication section 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. High Court key statistics Oct – Dec 2009
 - **Chancery**
There were 1,632 cases received into the Chancery division. In total, 63% were chancery cases, 29% were bankruptcy cases and 8% were companies' cases. There were 1,694 cases disposed of during the reporting period.
 - **Queen's Bench**
There were 1,952 writs received in Queen's Bench. Of those, 61% were negligence cases. There were 252 default judgments made during the quarter.
 - **Judicial Reviews**
There were 62 applications for leave to apply for Judicial Review and 34 applications for Judicial Review received during the quarter. Of the 21 applications for Judicial Review disposed of during the quarter, 4 were granted.
 - **Probate**
There were 1,465 grants issued during the quarter in the probate office.
 - **Wardship and Adoption**
There were 28 adoption applications received and 42 adoption applications disposed of during the quarter. It took, on average, 30 weeks for an adoption application to progress through the courts.
 - **Matrimonial**
There were 673 divorce petitions lodged in the High Court. Of these, 423 petitions were lodged by the wife. In total, 331 decrees nisi and 219 absolutes were issued.
 - High Court figures on Children Order cases and Crown Court cases are published in the Children Order Bulletin and the Crown Court Bulletin.

3. County Court key statistics Oct – Dec 2009

- There were 1,986 civil bills with a notice of intention to defend (NID) received during the quarter of October to December 2009. A total of 3,155 civil bills were disposed of during the quarter, of which 1,664 civil bills were disposed of in court.
- During the same period there were 44 equity cases received and 46 cases dealt with.
- There were 203 ejectment cases received and 168 ejectment cases disposed of during the reporting period.
- There were 3,102 small claims received and 2,777 disposed of during the period, of which 534 were disposed of in court and 1,506 were default judgments.
- In total, 388 decrees nisi were granted during the quarter, with 50% of these giving a reason of '2 years with consent'. There were 306 decrees absolute granted in the county court.
- There were 1,111 sitting days during the quarter, with 52% of time having been spent on criminal business.
- County Court figures on Children Order cases are published in the Children Order Bulletin.

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

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