

# Children Order Bulletin

## April to June 2010

*serving the community through the administration of justice*

### Document Details

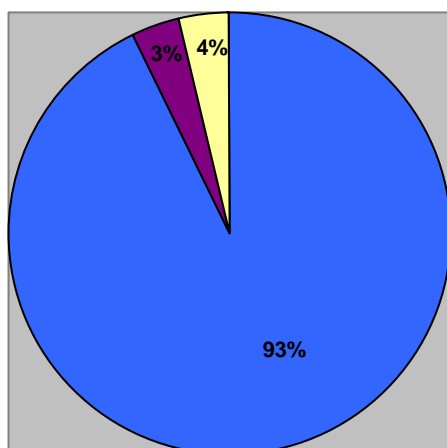
	Provisional Figures
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## Summary

### During April – June 2010:

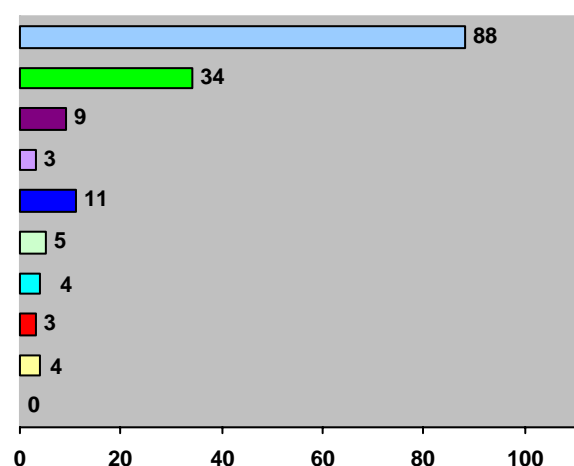
- There were 1,355 applications (Fig 1) entered during the period, of which:
  - 167 = Public
  - 1,188 = Private
- There were 1,159 applications dealt with during the period, of which:
  - 174 = Public
  - 985 = Private
- There were 154 cases transferred during the period with 161 reasons for transfer (Fig 2).
- Of the own motion orders made, 9% were in relation to Contact issues.
- The majority of interim orders made were in relation to Contact (2,201) and Care (1,593) issues.
- Court time spent on Children Order business between April and June 2010:
  - Total time = 1257 hours 27 minutes
  - Average sitting time = 2 hours 32 minutes
- There were 2,768 orders made between April and June 2010.
- The average waiting time in weeks from lodgement to disposal for public law cases was 36 weeks.
- The average waiting time in weeks between lodgement to disposal for private law cases was 25 weeks.
- There were 1,437 children involved in Children Order Proceedings during the period, of which 37% 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



Complexity
Consolidation
Convenience
Gravity
Jurisdiction
Returned to Lower Court
Separate Representation for Child
Urgency
Point of Law
Other

**Table 1a: Applications entered and disposed**

		Number of applications entered	Number of disposals
Private Law	Family Proceedings Court	1085	857
	Family Care Centre	32	76
	High Court	71	52
	Total	1188	985
Public Law	Family Proceedings Court	146	121
	Family Care Centre	9	39
	High Court	12	14
	Total	167	174

Private law = residence, contact, specific issues, prohibited steps, parental responsibility, financial contribution, guardianship, family assistance, non-molestation and occupation orders

**Table 1b: Applications entered and disposed by processing office**

		Public Law		Private Law	
		Number of applications entered	Number of disposals	Number of applications entered	Number of disposals
Family Proceedings Court	Antrim	0	0	7	2
	Armagh	0	0	0	0
	Ballymena	29	16	128	117
	Bangor	0	0	2	2
	Belfast	30	28	300	235
	Coleraine	0	0	13	5
	Craigavon	8	10	79	58
	Downpatrick	0	1	0	0
	Dungannon	22	21	86	52
	Larne	0	0	3	3
	Limavady	0	0	1	0
	Lisburn	8	5	85	54
	Londonderry	13	9	151	115
	Magherafelt	0	0	0	0
	Newry	22	13	102	75
	Newtownards	13	17	126	137
	Omagh	1	1	2	2
	Venue total	146	121	1085	857
Family Care Centre	Belfast	5	28	17	45
	Craigavon	3	8	13	19
	Dungannon	1	1	0	4
	Londonderry	0	2	2	8
	Venue total	9	39	32	76
High Court	Royal Courts of Justice	12	14	71	52
	Venue total	12	14	71	52

Private law = residence, contact, specific issues, prohibited steps, parental responsibility, financial contribution, guardianship, family assistance, non-molestation and occupation orders.

**Table 1c: Applications entered and disposed**

	Public Law		Private Law	
	Number of applications entered	Number of disposals	Number of applications entered	Number of disposals
Northern Ireland	167	174	1188	985

**Table 2: Reasons for transfer [1]**

Transferred from		Complexity	Consolidation	Convenience	Gravity	Jurisdiction	Returned to Lower Court	Separate Representation for Child	Urgency	Point of Law	Public Interest	Other	Total
Family Proceedings Court	Antrim	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Armagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ballymena	7	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
	Belfast	28	6	0	0	2	0	4	3	2	0	0	45
	Coleraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Craigavon	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Downpatrick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dungannon	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Larne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Lisburn	12	10	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
	Londonderry	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
	Newry	7	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
	Newtownards	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
	Omagh	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Venue total	<b>74</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>127</b>
Family Care Centre	Belfast	5	0	3	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	14
	Craigavon	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	12
	Dungannon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Londonderry	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Venue total	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>
High Court	Office of Care and Protection	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Venue total	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
Northern Ireland Total		<b>88</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>161</b>

[1] Total number of reasons for transfer. There may be more than one reason for each case. There were 154 cases transferred during the period.

**Table 3: Total own motion orders**

	Own motion orders
Parental Responsibility	3
Contact: Permission	19
Contact: Refusal	0
Residence	24
Prohibited Steps	1
Specific Issues	6
Family Assistance	0
Care	27
Supervision	0
Education Supervision	0
Declaration of Parentage	0
Child Assessment	9
Emergency Protection	9
Extension of EPO	0
Recovery	0
Secure Accommodation	0
Article 53 Contract	0
Appointment of Guardian	42
Contribution and other Financial	0
Non-Molestation Order	0
Occupation Articles	0
Article 56 Investigations	0
Exclusion Requirement	0
Ex Parte Application refused	0
Other orders, applications etc	83
Total	223

**Table 4: Total interim orders**

	Interim orders
Parental Responsibility	3
Contact: Permission	2201
Contact: Refusal	0
Residence	412
Prohibited Steps	113
Specific Issues	3
Family Assistance	0
Care	1593
Supervision	37
Education Supervision	0
Child Assessment	0
Emergency Protection	0
Extension of EPO	0
Recovery	0
Secure Accommodation	55
Article 53 Contract	0
Appointment of Guardian	0
Contribution and other Financial	0
Non-Molestation Order	17
Occupation Articles	0
Article 56 Investigations	0
Exclusion Requirement	0
Other orders, applications etc	0
Total	4434

**Table 5a: Sitting times disposed of by court venue**

		Total sitting time	Average sitting time	Total sittings
Family Proceedings Court	Antrim	17:10	05:43	3
	Ballymena	63:50	04:34	14
	Banbridge@Newry	00:25	00:08	3
	Belfast	170:05	03:20	51
	Coleraine	25:40	03:13	8
	Craigavon	39:20	02:19	17
	Dungannon	33:45	03:45	9
	Larne	16:20	02:43	6
	Lisburn	49:50	03:19	15
	Londonderry	70:00	02:48	25
	Newry	72:05	03:17	22
	Newtownards	88:50	02:24	37
	Omagh	51:50	03:59	13
	Venue total	699:10	03:08	223
	Family Care Centre	Belfast	181:55	02:28
Craigavon		123:25	05:22	23
Dungannon		05:25	01:21	4
Enniskillen		00:05	00:05	1
Londonderry		19:55	00:40	30
Omagh		02:24	02:24	1
Venue total		333:09	02:30	133
High Court	Royal Courts of Justice	225:08	01:36	141
	Venue total	225:08	01:36	141

**Table 5b: Sitting times and business disposed of in Northern Ireland**

	Total sitting time	Average sitting time	Total sittings
Northern Ireland	1257:27	02:32	497

[1] Total sittings include both minority and majority sittings

**Table 6: Orders Made**

		Orders Made		Total
		By Consent	Other	
Orders Made	Adjourn Generally	0	13	13
	Article 20 Non-Molestation Order	0	11	11
	Article 53 Contact with a Child in Care	0	29	29
	Care Order	58	54	112
	Contact Order	574	232	806
	Declaration of Parentage	15	8	23
	Discharging a Care Order	6	5	11
	Discharge Non Molestation Occupation Order	0	10	10
	Discharge Prohibited Steps Order	10	1	11
	Dismiss Order (Children Order)	15	63	78
	Education Supervision Order	0	20	20
	Emergency Protection Order	3	34	37
	Emergency Protection Order - Out of Hours	0	4	4
	Ex-Parte Application Refused	6	71	77
	Extension of an Emergency Protection Order	4	1	5
	Family Assistance Order	4	1	5
	Financial Provision	0	15	15
	Leave to change surname by which child is known	5	4	9
	Leave to remove Child from the UK	0	2	2
	Leave to withdraw	183	109	292
	Non Molestation Order	0	5	5
	Order of No Order (Final Order)	49	10	59
	Order for Leave of Court	0	28	28
	Order or Directions Final	0	0	0
	Order terminating appointment of GAL	114	77	191
	Other Order	8	118	126
	Parental Responsibility Order	54	23	77
	Proceedings dismissed on the merits (Final Order)	5	20	25
	Prohibited Steps Order	15	42	57
	Recovery of a Child	0	1	1
	Refusal of Article 3 Certification	0	0	0
	Residence Order	313	169	482
Secure Accommodation Order	5	5	10	
Specific Issues Order	35	35	70	
Strike out	17	25	42	
Supervision Order	17	8	25	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1515</b>	<b>1253</b>	<b>2768</b>	

**Table 7a: Average time in weeks from lodgement to disposal of cases by processing office**

		Public law		Private law	
		Average time weeks	Number of cases	Average time weeks	Number of cases
Family Proceedings Court	Antrim	0	0	23.4	2
	Ballymena	25.9	16	18.4	117
	Bangor	0	0	10.0	2
	Belfast	29.1	28	21.3	235
	Coleraine	0	0	12.4	5
	Craigavon	26.7	10	32.5	58
	Downpatrick	14.0	1	0	0
	Dungannon	26.6	21	17.2	52
	Larne	0	0	0.0	3
	Lisburn	34.2	5	23.4	54
	Londonderry	23.9	9	17.5	115
	Newry	20.8	13	28.8	75
	Newtownards	33.1	17	26.8	137
	Omagh	0.0	1	0.0	2
	Total	27.2	121	22.4	857
Family Care Centre	Belfast	55.5	28	45.3	45
	Craigavon	79.7	8	28.0	19
	Dungannon	54.1	1	64.3	4
	Londonderry	60.3	2	27.0	8
	Total	60.7	39	40.0	76
High Court	Royal Courts of Justice	47.9	14	41.8	52
	Total	47.9	14	41.8	52

Nb Cases disposed will include time spent at the lower court tier.

**Table 7b: Average time in weeks from lodgement to disposal of cases in Northern Ireland**

	Public law		Private law	
	Average time weeks	Number of cases	Average time weeks	Number of cases
Northern Ireland	36.3	174	24.8	985

Nb Cases disposed will include time spent at the lower court tier.

**Table 8: Age and gender of children**

	0-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	Total
Male	279	191	159	88	717
Female	247	201	163	106	717
Unknown	3	0	0	0	3
Total	529	392	322	194	1437

**Appendix 1 - Average time in weeks from lodgement to disposal by venue for Care Cases**

		Average time in weeks	Number of cases
Family Proceedings Court	Ballymena	48.5	6
	Belfast	41.9	14
	Craigavon	41.1	5
	Dungannon	69.2	6
	Lisburn	156.9	1
	Londonderry	39.2	2
	Newtownards	40.8	12
	Newry	41.8	6
	Total	47.6	52
Family Care Centre	Belfast	58.3	24
	Craigavon	79.7	8
	Dungannon	54.1	1
	Londonderry	60.3	2
	Total	63.2	35
High Court	Office of Care & Protection	71.0	8
	Total	71.0	8

Nb Cases disposed will include time spent at the lower court tier. This table includes all care applications irrespective of the order made.

**Appendix 1 - Average time in weeks from lodgement to disposal for Care Cases**

	Average time weeks	Number of cases
Northern Ireland	55.3	95

Nb Cases disposed will include time spent at the lower court tier. This table includes all care applications irrespective of the order made.

**Appendix 2 - Average time in weeks spent at the court tier in which the case was finally disposed**

		Public Law	Private Law
Family Proceedings Court	Antrim	0.0	21.2
	Ballymena	25.9	18.3
	Bangor	0.0	10.0
	Belfast	29.1	20.8
	Coleraine	0.0	11.9
	Craigavon	26.7	32.5
	Downpatrick	14.0	0.0
	Dungannon	26.6	17.2
	Larne	0.0	0.0
	Lisburn	34.2	23.4
	Londonderry	23.9	17.5
	Newry	20.8	27.6
	Newtownards	33.0	26.1
	Omagh	0.0	0.0
	Total	27.2	22.0
Family Care Centre	Belfast	30.0	33.9
	Craigavon	55.9	20.3
	Dungannon	52.1	26.8
	Londonderry	33.6	14.9
	Total	36.1	28.2
High Court	Royal Courts of Justice	39.8	25.6
	Total	39.8	25.6

**Appendix 2 - Average time in weeks spent at the court tier in which the case was finally disposed**

	Public Law	Private Law
Northern Ireland	30.2	22.7

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