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Northern Ireland Court Service

Children's Order Quarterly Bulletin

January – March 2009

(Provisional Figures)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

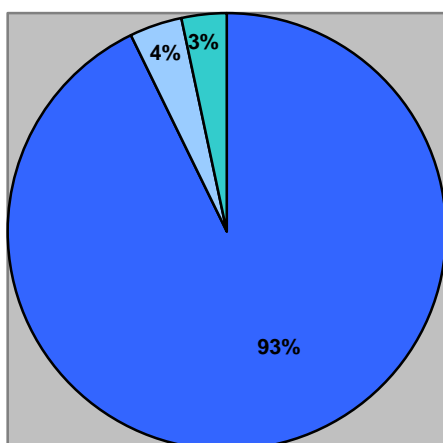
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Summary

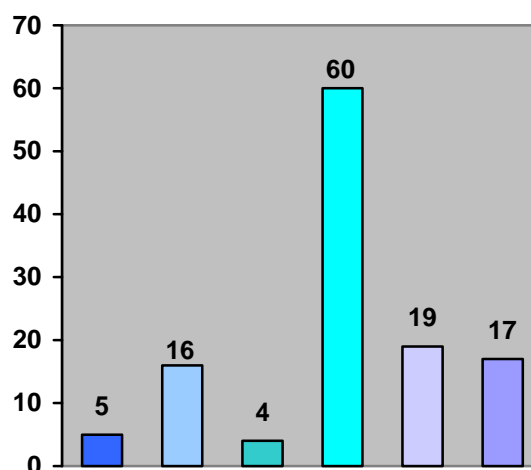
- There were 1032 applications entered during the period, of which:
145 = Public
887 = Private
- There were 815 applications dealt with during the period, of which:
89 = Public
726 = Private
- There were 121 cases transferred during the period.
- Of the own motion orders made, 26% were in relation to Care issues.
- The majority of interim orders made were in relation to Contact and Care issues.
- Court time spent on Children Order business between January - March 2009:
Total time = 1081 hours 35 minutes
Ave. sitting time = 2 hours 21 minutes
- There were 1,911 orders made between January - March 2009.
- The average waiting time in weeks between lodgement to disposal for public law cases was 28 weeks.
- The average waiting time in weeks between lodgement to disposal for private law cases was 27 weeks.
- There were 1,103 children involved in Children Order Proceedings during the period, of which 35% were under the age of five.

Figure 1: Number of applications received by court tier



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

Figure 2: Reasons for Transfer



■ Urgency	■ Convenience
■ Gravity	■ Complexity
■ Consolidation	■ Other

Table 1a: Applications entered and disposed

		Number of applications entered	Number of disposals
Private Law	Family Proceedings Court	830	665
	Family Care Centre	31	38
	High Court	26	23
	Total	887	726
Public Law	Family Proceedings Court	127	69
	Family Care Centre	9	12
	High Court	9	8
	Total	145	89

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	1	0
	Ballymena	16	10	90	52
	Bangor	0	0	3	0
	Belfast	24	18	206	174
	Coleraine	0	0	6	3
	Craigavon	5	5	62	48
	Downpatrick	0	0	0	0
	Dungannon	22	14	65	69
	Larne	0	0	2	0
	Limavady	0	0	0	0
	Lisburn	11	3	85	69
	Londonderry	13	4	114	89
	Magherafelt	0	0	4	3
	Newry	21	4	69	69
	Newtownards	14	11	122	85
	Omagh	1	0	1	4
		Venue total	127	69	830
Family Care Centre	Craigavon	5	7	17	7
	Londonderry	1	0	5	13
	Belfast	3	4	9	12
	Dungannon	0	1	0	6
		Venue total	9	12	31
High Court	Matrimonial	0	0	4	3
	Office of Care & Protection	9	8	22	20
		Venue total	9	8	26

[1] 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	145	89	887	726

Table 2: Reasons for transfer [1]

Transferred from								Total
		Urgency	Convenience	Gravity	Complexity	Case linked - Consolidation	Other	
Family Proceedings Court	Antrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Armagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ballymena	0	4	2	4	1	0	11
	Belfast	0	1	0	14	8	1	24
	Coleraine	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Craigavon	0	0	0	5	1	1	7
	Dungannon	0	1	0	2	1	0	4
	Larne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Lisburn	0	0	0	3	2	3	8
	Londonderry	0	2	0	3	1	0	6
	Newry	0	2	0	6	2	0	10
	Newtownards	0	0	0	3	2	0	5
	Omagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Venue total	0	10	2	40	18	6	76
Family Care Centre	Belfast	4	3	2	13	0	2	24
	Craigavon	1	2	0	6	1	5	15
	Dungannon	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Londonderry	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Venue total	5	5	2	20	1	8	41
High Court	Office of Care and Protection	0	1	0	0	0	3	4
	Venue total	0	1	0	0	0	3	4
Northern Ireland Total		5	16	4	60	19	17	121

Where a court tier / venue is omitted, this indicates a nil return for the period to date.

[1] Total number of reasons for transfer. There may be more than one reason for each case.

Table 3: Total own motion orders

	Own motion orders
Parental Responsibility	3
Contact: Permission	146
Contact: Refusal	0
Residence	75
Prohibited Steps	5
Specific Issues	12
Family Assistance	0
Care	166
Supervision	9
Education Supervision	0
Declaration of Parentage	2
Child Assessment	6
Emergency Protection	3
Extension of EPO	2
Recovery	1
Secure Accommodation	3
Article 53 Contract	0
Appointment of Guardian under Part XV	33
Contribution and other Financial	0
Non-Molestation Order	0
Occupation Articles	0
Article 56 Investigations	0
Exclusion Requirement	0
Other orders, applications etc	166
Total	632

Table 4: Total interim orders

	Interim orders
Parental Responsibility	1
Contact: Permission	1808
Contact: Refusal	0
Residence	351
Prohibited Steps	114
Specific Issues	5
Family Assistance	0
Care	1049
Supervision	85
Education Supervision	0
Child Assessment	0
Emergency Protection	0
Extension of EPO	0
Recovery	0
Secure Accommodation	27
Article 53 Contract	0
Appointment of Guardian under Part XV	0
Contribution and other Financial	0
Non-Molestation Order	3
Occupation Articles	0
Article 56 Investigations	0
Exclusion Requirement	0
Other orders, applications etc	0
Total	3443

Table 5: Sitting times and applications disposed of by venue

		Total sitting time	Average sitting time	Total sittings
Family Proceedings Court	Antrim	6:25	2:08	3
	Ballymena	44:05	3:23	13
	Belfast	186:50	3:36	52
	Coleraine	23:40	3:23	7
	Craigavon	29:50	3:44	8
	Downpatrick	00:00	0:00	0
	Dungannon	41:10	5:09	8
	Larne	9:21	3:07	3
	Lisburn	32:15	2:41	12
	Lisburn@Craigavon	15:45	3:09	5
	Londonderry	83:51	3:21	25
	Newry	50:05	3:20	15
	Newtownards	79:25	2:16	35
	Omagh	43:50	3:39	12
	Venue total	646:32	3:16	198
Family Care Centre	Armagh	15:25	3:51	4
	Belfast	97:13	1:01	95
	Craigavon	42:00	2:48	15
	Dungannon	4:52	1:37	3
	Enniskillen	0:05	0:05	1
	Londonderry	6:34	0:30	13
	Newry	6:02	2:01	3
	Newtownards	6:00	6:00	1
	Omagh	1:49	0:27	4
	Venue total	180:00	1:18	139
High Court	Matrimonial	0:00	0:00	0
	Office of Care & Protection	255:03	2:05	122
	Venue total	255:03	2:05	122

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

	Total sitting time	Average sitting time	Total sittings
Northern Ireland	1081:35	2:21	459

[1] Total sittings include both minority and majority sittings

Table 6: Orders Made

		Orders Made		Total
		By Consent	Other	
Orders Made	ADJOURN GENERALLY	0	19	19
	ARTICLE 20 NON-MOLESTATION ORDER	0	6	6
	ARTICLE 53 CONTACT WITH A CHILD IN CARE	0	9	9
	C18 - FINAL ORDER	152	158	310
	CARE ORDER	9	34	43
	CASE WITHDRAWN	0	39	39
	CONTACT ORDER	421	153	574
	DECLARATION OF PARENTAGE	6	7	13
	DISCHARGING A CARE ORDER	1	1	2
	DISMISS ORDER (CHILDREN ORDER)	0	20	20
	EDUCATION SUPERVISION ORDER	0	5	5
	EMERGENCY PROTECTION ORDER	6	10	16
	EMERGENCY PROTECTION ORDER - OUT OF HOURS	0	2	2
	EXTENSION OF AN EMERGENCY PROTECTION ORDER	5	4	9
	FAMILY ASSISTANCE ORDER	1	0	1
	FINANCIAL PROVISION	0	1	1
	LEAVE TO CHANGE SURNAME BY WHICH CHILD IS KNOWN	3	0	3
	LEAVE TO WITHDRAW	0	91	91
	ORDER FOR LEAVE OF COURT	0	24	24
	ORDER FOR RECOVERY OF A CHILD	1	2	3
	ORDER OR DIRECTIONS FINAL	25	20	45
	ORDER TERMINATING APPOINTMENT OF GAL	44	43	87
	OTHER ORDER	3	43	46
	PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY ORDER	38	15	53
	PROHIBITED STEPS ORDER	7	10	17
	REFUSAL OF ARTICLE 3 CERTIFICATION	0	0	0
	RESIDENCE ORDER	232	142	374
	SECURE ACCOMMODATION ORDER	8	9	17
SPECIFIC ISSUES ORDER	16	18	34	
STRIKE OUT	0	30	30	
SUPERVISION ORDER	2	16	18	
Total	980	931	1911	

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	0	0
	Ballymena	15.6	10	28.5	52
	Belfast	23.9	18	22.9	174
	Coleraine	0	0	19.4	3
	Craigavon	18.7	5	22.9	48
	Dungannon	20.7	14	23.6	69
	Lisburn	20.7	3	23.1	69
	Londonderry	9.3	4	25.6	89
	Magherafelt	0	0	0.4	3
	Newry	19.8	4	28.7	69
	Newtownards	42.1	11	35.1	85
	Omagh	0	0	35.3	4
	Total	23.3	69	25.9	665
Family Care Centre	Belfast	63.3	4	53.1	12
	Craigavon	51.0	7	12.3	7
	Dungannon	13.0	1	50.4	6
	Londonderry	0	0	45.3	13
	Total	52.0	12	42.5	38
High Court	Matrimonial	0	0	36.6	3
	Office of Care & Protection	32.0	8	32.8	20
	Total	32.0	8	33.3	23

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	28.0	89	27.0	726

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	199	180	142	66	587
Female	184	151	113	67	515
Unknown	0	0	1	0	1
Total	383	331	256	133	1103

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	21.8	2
	Belfast	45.1	8
	Craigavon	45.5	2
	Dungannon	37.4	6
	Lisburn	46.4	1
	Londonderry	29.0	1
	Newry	62.1	1
	Newtownards	60.4	7
	Total	45.7	28
Family Care Centre	Belfast	77.9	2
	Craigavon	68.6	5
	Dungannon	0	0
	Londonderry	0	0
	Total	71.3	7
High Court	Office of Care & Protection	48.1	5
	Total	48.1	5

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	50.5	40

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
	Ballymena	15.6	28.3
	Belfast	23.9	22.5
	Coleraine	0	19.4
	Craigavon	18.7	22.9
	Dungannon	20.7	23.6
	Lisburn	20.7	23.0
	Londonderry	9.3	25.6
	Magherafelt	0	0.4
	Newry	19.8	28.5
	Newtownards	42.1	35.1
	Omagh	0	35.3
	Total	23.3	25.8
	Family Care Centre	Belfast	44.6
Craigavon		24.4	11.4
Dungannon		13.0	40.6
Londonderry		0	31.0
Total		30.2	31.8
High Court	Matrimonial	0	17.2
	Office of Care & Protection	23.9	27.3
	Total	23.9	29.5

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

	Public Law	Private Law
Northern Ireland	24.3	26.2