

County Court Bulletin

April – June 2011

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Document Details

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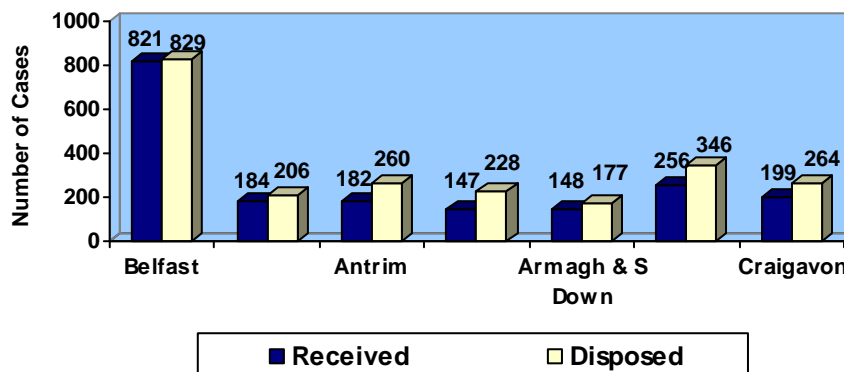
County court figures on Children Order cases, magistrates' appeals and county court appeals appear in other bulletins.

Figures are run from an administrative database and may change due to late returns and further validations.

Summary

- There were 1,937 civil bills with a notice of intention to defend (NID) received between April - June 2011. This a 2% decrease on the 1,979 NIDs received in April – June 2010. A total of 2,946 civil bills were disposed of during the quarter, of which 1,593 civil bills were disposed of in court. This is an 8% decrease on the civil bills disposed during April – June 2010 (3,215), and a <1% increase in the number of civil bills disposed of in court (1,587).
- From April – June 2011 there were 45 equity cases received and 36 cases dealt with. Compared with 45 equity cases received and 75 cases dealt with in April – June 2010.
- There were 213 ejectment cases received and 214 ejectment cases disposed of during the reporting period. This is a 5% decrease on the cases received and an 11% increase on the cases disposed against the same period last year (224 and 193 respectively).
- There were 3,368 small claims received during the period, one less than the same period last year (3,367). There were 2,621 small claims cases disposed of during the period a 26% decrease on the 3,534 disposed between April – June 2010. During the quarter 483 were disposed of in court and 1,494 were default judgments.
- In total, 343 decrees nisi were granted during the quarter, with 48% of these giving a reason of '2 years with consent'. In comparison, during the same period last year there were 535 decrees nisi granted, with 50% of these giving a reason of '2 years with consent'. Between April and June 2011 there were 322 decrees absolute granted in the county court, this is a 14% decrease on the 375 decrees absolute granted in the same period last year.
- There were 1,146 sitting days during the quarter, with 59% of time having been spent on criminal business. In comparison there were 1,116 sitting days, with 54% of time spent on criminal business between April – June 2010.

Number of Civil Bills with NID's received and dealt with (excluding the Civil Processing Centre)



Civil Bills

Table 1: Number of ordinary civil bill cases and applications received

Case	Antrim	163
	Ards	250
	Armagh and South Down	135
	Belfast	2272
	Craigavon	185
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	140
	Londonderry	153
	Total	3298
Application	Antrim	125
	Ards	181
	Armagh and South Down	107
	Belfast	684
	Craigavon	131
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	91
	Londonderry	142
	Total	1461

Table 2: Number of ordinary civil bill cases with NIDs received by judicial level

	County court judge	District judge	Total
Antrim	122	60	182
Ards	170	86	256
Armagh and South Down	85	63	148
Belfast	563	258	821
Craigavon	126	73	199
Fermanagh and Tyrone	96	51	147
Londonderry	102	82	184
Total	1264	673	1937

Table 3: Number of ordinary civil bills cases and applications disposed

		Court result - CCJ	Court result - DDJ	Non court disposals	Default judgement	Office disposal	Total
Case	Antrim	67	73	84	3	33	260
	Ards	134	127	54	5	27	347
	Armagh and South Down	97	16	41		23	177
	Belfast	389	213	123	11	93	829
	Civil Processing Centre			34	575	26	635
	Craigavon	130	30	58	8	38	264
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	98	71	39		20	228
	Londonderry	80	68	38	1	19	206
	Total	995	598	471	603	279	2946
Application	Antrim	26	8	19			53
	Ards	34	31	26			91
	Armagh and South Down	34	5	17			56
	Belfast	115	21	102			238
	Civil Processing Centre			19			19
	Craigavon	43	6	25			74
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	17	10	19			46
	Londonderry	52	25	8			85
	Total	321	106	235			662

Table 4: Number of ordinary civil bills cases by amount awarded

		No value	Less than £1000	£1000-2999	£3000-4999	Over £5000	Total
Case	Antrim	24	19	40	29	28	140
	Ards	48	21	72	74	46	261
	Armagh and South Down	25	9	31	17	31	113
	Belfast	252	49	127	89	85	602
	Craigavon	31	18	42	39	30	160
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	48	14	40	29	38	169
	Londonderry	42	14	37	27	28	148
	Total	470	144	389	304	286	1593

Excludes cases that were adjourned generally, default judgements or had office disposals

Table 5: Outstanding civil bills with NID but no COR

	County court judge	District judge	Total
Antrim	344	118	462
Ards	264	128	392
Armagh and South Down	176	90	266
Belfast	1370	415	1785
Craigavon	294	120	414
Fermanagh and Tyrone	264	85	349
Londonderry	171	160	331
Total	2883	1116	3999

Table 6: Outstanding civil bills with COR

	County court judge	District judge	Total
Antrim	101	37	138
Ards	146	62	208
Armagh and South Down	65	32	97
Belfast	418	75	493
Craigavon	93	36	129
Fermanagh and Tyrone	78	34	112
Londonderry	47	51	98
Total	948	327	1275

Table 7: Time intervals in weeks for civil bill cases

Case	Issue to disposal
Antrim	44
Ards	35
Armagh and South Down	54
Belfast	44
Craigavon	40
Fermanagh and Tyrone	49
Londonderry	51
Total	44

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

Table 8: Time intervals in weeks for civil bill applications

		Issue to disposal
Application	Antrim	3
	Ards	5
	Armagh and South Down	11
	Belfast	4
	Craigavon	6
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	3
	Londonderry	5
	Total	5

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

Equity

Table 9: Equity cases and applications received

Case	Antrim	4
	Ards	4
	Armagh and South Down	7
	Belfast	10
	Craigavon	3
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	13
	Londonderry	4
	Total	45
Application	Antrim	3
	Ards	2
	Armagh and South Down	5
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	8
	Londonderry	1
	Total	19

Table 10: Equity cases and applications disposed

		Court result - CCJ	Court result - DDJ	Non court disposals	Total
Case	Antrim	7		1	8
	Ards	3			3
	Armagh and South Down	7	1		8
	Belfast	6			6
	Craigavon	1			1
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	4	1		5
	Londonderry	3	1	1	5
	Total	31	3	2	36
Application	Ards			1	1
	Armagh and South Down	1	1	1	3
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	4		2	6
	Londonderry	2	1		3
	Total	7	2	4	13

Table 11: Outstanding equity cases

Case	Antrim	42
	Ards	39
	Armagh and South Down	40
	Belfast	64
	Craigavon	17
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	71
	Londonderry	29
Total		302

Table 12: Time intervals in weeks

		Issue to disposal
Case	Antrim	88
	Ards	69
	Armagh and South Down	108
	Belfast	99
	Craigavon	56
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	37
	Londonderry	65
	Total	82
Application	Armagh and South Down	0
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	1
	Londonderry	21
	Total	8

Ejectment

Table 13: Ejectment cases received

Case	Antrim	13
	Ards	31
	Armagh and South Down	3
	Belfast	127
	Craigavon	21
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	4
	Londonderry	14
	Total	213

Table 14: Ejectment cases disposed

		Court result - CCJ	Court result - DDJ	Non court disposals	Total
Case	Antrim		15	2	17
	Ards	31	46	1	78
	Armagh and South Down	2			2
	Belfast		62		62
	Craigavon	1	25	2	28
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	2	4		6
	Londonderry	1	20		21
	Total	37	172	5	214

Table 15: Outstanding ejectment cases with NID

Case	Antrim	5
	Ards	5
	Armagh and South Down	4
	Belfast	11
	Craigavon	2
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	4
	Londonderry	4
Total	35	

Table 16: Time intervals in weeks

		Issue to disposal
Case	Antrim	16
	Ards	14
	Armagh and South Down	15
	Belfast	12
	Craigavon	10
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	10
	Londonderry	21
	Total	14

Excludes default judgements, non-court disposals and office disposals

Small Claims

Table 17: Number of small claims cases and applications received

Case	Antrim	57
	Ards	60
	Armagh and South Down	39
	Belfast	3074
	Craigavon	39
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	67
	Londonderry	32
	Total	3368
Application	Antrim	7
	Ards	6
	Armagh and South Down	6
	Belfast	33
	Craigavon	10
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	8
	Londonderry	4
	Total	74

Table 18: Number of small claims cases with NODs received

Case	Antrim	59
	Ards	68
	Armagh and South Down	35
	Belfast	153
	Craigavon	43
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	54
	Londonderry	31
Total	443	

Table 19: Number of small claims cases and applications disposed

		Court disposal	Non court disposal	Office disposal	Default judgement	Total
Case	Antrim	42	7	7	5	61
	Ards	103	8	25	4	140
	Armagh and South Down	57	5	3	1	66
	Belfast	141	6	563	1473	2183
	Craigavon	58	2	6	5	71
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	47		6	4	57
	Londonderry	35		6	2	43
	Total	483	28	616	1494	2621
Application	Antrim	5	1			6
	Ards	8	2			10
	Armagh and South Down	5	1			6
	Belfast	27				27
	Craigavon	5	1			6
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	6				6
	Londonderry	6				6
	Total	62	5			67

Table 20: Outstanding small claims with NOD

Antrim	71
Ards	61
Armagh and South Down	32
Belfast	154
Craigavon	39
Fermanagh and Tyrone	107
Londonderry	52
Total	516

Table 21: Time intervals in weeks

		Issue to disposal
Case	Antrim	19
	Ards	22
	Armagh and South Down	17
	Belfast	18
	Craigavon	21
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	26
	Londonderry	16
	Total	20
Application	Antrim	6
	Ards	9
	Armagh and South Down	6
	Belfast	4
	Craigavon	6
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	6
	Londonderry	12
	Total	6

Excludes default judgements, non-court disposals and office disposals

Criminal Damage

Table 22: Number of criminal damage cases and applications received

Case		
	Belfast	4
	Craigavon	1
	Total	5

Table 23: Number of criminal damage cases and applications disposed

		Court disposal	Total
Case	Belfast	15	15
	Total	15	15

Table 24: Outstanding criminal damage cases

Ards	2
Armagh and South Down	6
Belfast	41
Craigavon	15
Fermanagh and Tyrone	3
Londonderry	2
Total	69

Table 25: Time intervals in weeks

		Issue to disposal
Case	Belfast	174
	Total	174

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

Divorce

Table 26: Divorce petitions by type of decrees Nisi

	2 years with consent	5 years separation	Adultery	Unreasonable behaviour	Combination of grounds/other	Total
Antrim	32	23		4	3	62
Ards	29	16		2	2	49
Armagh and South Down	10	16	1	3	1	31
Belfast	38	15	1	3	2	59
Craigavon	28	24	2	9	6	69
Fermanagh and Tyrone	12	11		2	3	28
Londonderry	15	20	1	3	6	45
Total	164	125	5	26	23	343

Table 27: Divorce petitions by number of absolutes issued

	2 years with consent	5 years separation	Adultery	Unreasonable behaviour	Combination of grounds/other	Total
Antrim	26	14	1	4	2	47
Ards	26	14	1	2	2	45
Armagh and South Down	12	14	1	2	4	33
Belfast	32	23	1	5	3	64
Craigavon	24	19		3	4	50
Fermanagh and Tyrone	18	6	1	4	5	34
Londonderry	18	14	1	11	5	49
Total	156	104	6	31	25	322

Table 28: Matrimonial applications received

	Ancillary relief	Matrimonial application to a master	Other	Total
Antrim	7	1		8
Ards	3	1		4
Armagh and South Down	12			12
Belfast	10		28	38
Craigavon	5		3	8
Fermanagh and Tyrone	7		1	8
Londonderry	7	1	3	11
Total	51	3	35	89

Table 29: Matrimonial applications disposed

	Ancillary relief	Matrimonial application to a master	Other	Total
Antrim	9	1	1	11
Ards	5			5
Armagh and South Down	4			4
Belfast	5			5
Craigavon	1		1	2
Fermanagh and Tyrone	7	1		8
Londonderry	12	1	4	17
Total	43	3	6	52

Table 30: Time intervals in weeks for divorce petitions

	Issue to date decree granted	Date decree granted to date absolute issued
Antrim	31	8
Ards	28	8
Armagh and South Down	38	7
Belfast	22	7
Craigavon	28	5
Fermanagh and Tyrone	46	9
Londonderry	46	7
Total	32	7

Table 31: Time intervals in weeks for divorce applications

	Issue to disposal
Antrim	58
Ards	44
Armagh and South Down	96
Belfast	2
Craigavon	18
Fermanagh and Tyrone	21
Londonderry	55
Total	46

Excludes non-court disposals

Licences

Table 32: Licences received and dealt with

	Licences Received	Licences Disposed
Antrim	11	9
Ards	3	3
Armagh and South Down	6	5
Belfast	18	6
Craigavon	6	6
Fermanagh and Tyrone	6	8
Londonderry	3	2
Total	53	39

County Court Judge & District Judge Sitting Days

Table 33: County Court Judge & District Judge Sitting Days

	Total time			Total criminal time	Total civil time	Total family time
	Number of sitting days	Average sitting	Total time			
Antrim	127	03:10:10	402:32:00	244:47:00	146:50:00	10:55:00
Ards	130	03:54:52	508:54:00	322:00:00	172:04:00	14:50:00
Armagh and South Down	116	02:56:08	340:33:00	200:56:00	123:50:00	15:47:00
Belfast	382	03:34:14	1364:03:00	817:00:00	360:36:00	186:27:00
Craigavon	130	03:43:33	484:23:00	259:59:00	103:56:00	120:28:00
Fermanagh and Tyrone	128	02:26:28	312:29:14	173:50:00	113:14:14	25:25:00
Londonderry	133	02:46:06	368:12:00	228:28:00	75:35:00	64:09:00
Total	1146	03:17:57	3781:06:14	2247:00:00	1096:05:14	438:01:00

A court sitting day is counted as any day where the judiciary sit in court. It does not include time in chambers or days where the judiciary are sitting in chambers

Data source and validations:

Data from the Integrated Courts Operations System (ICOS) are used for this publication. This system has been chosen as it is the main system within the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS). The data are input to this system on a daily basis. A download from this system is supplied to the Statistics and Research team on a weekly basis on flat files.

This information is downloaded via SPSS and validations are produced from this system to ensure that the data are reliable and robust for use. Any inconsistencies are reported back to individual court offices and if required, any necessary amendments are made to the data. Once, these amendments have been checked, computer syntax is then used to produce the tables in the bulletin. The aggregated total figures in the bulletin are produced from the computer syntax. The data are broken down by court location as this is the established way of producing and presenting these data. To ensure that timely data are used, the latest available extract is used to compile this bulletin.

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