

serving  
the community  
through the  
administration  
of justice

## Northern Ireland Court Service

### County Court Bulletin

**April - June 2008**  
**(PROVISIONAL FIGURES)**

[www.courtsni.gov.uk](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

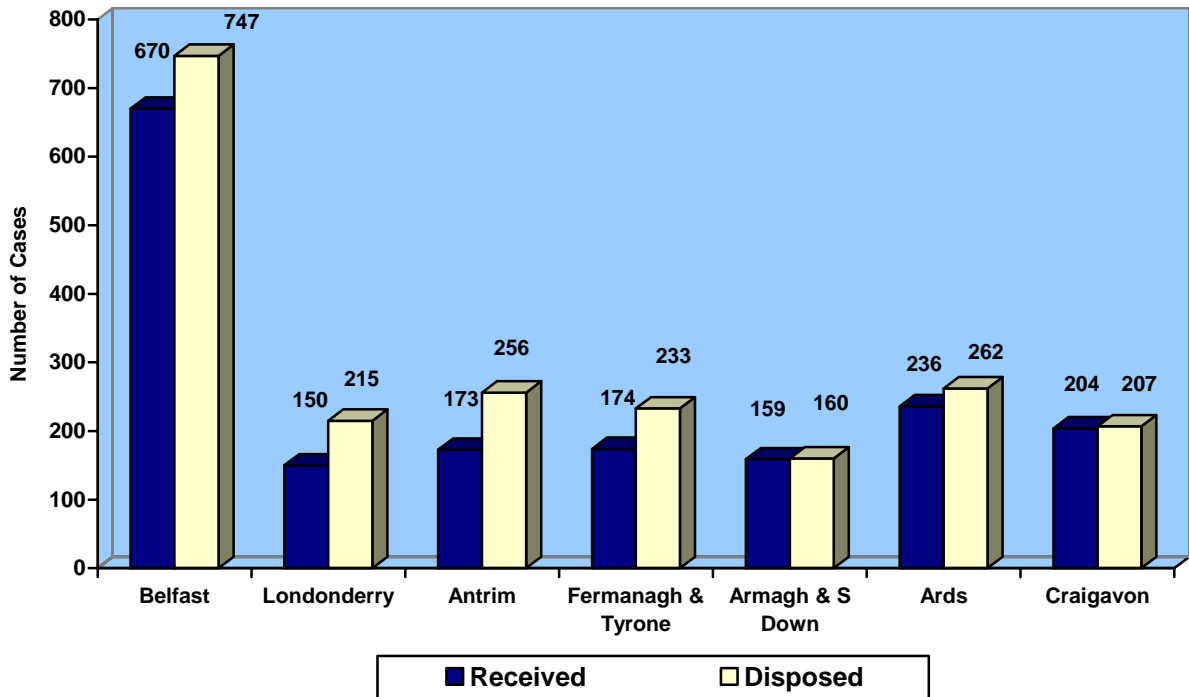




## Summary

- There were 1,766 civil bills with NID's received during the quarter, and 2,730 Civil Bills disposed of, with 1,580 civil bills disposed of in court and 1,150 disposed of in the office.
- During the period there were 91 Equity cases received and 76 cases dealt with.
- There were 265 ejectment cases received and 174 ejectment cases disposed of during the reporting period.
- There were 3,297 small claims received and 2,937 disposed of during the period, of which 495 were disposed of in court and 1,575 were default judgments.
- In total, 510 Decrees Nisi were granted during the quarter, with 51% of these giving a reason of '2 years with consent'. There were 419 decrees absolute granted in the county court with the highest percentage being granted in Craigavon division (19%).
- There were 1,261 sitting days during the quarter with just over 51% of time being spent on criminal business.

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



Abbreviations: NID – Notice of Intention to Defend  
 NOD – Notice of Dispute  
 COR – Certificate of Readiness

## Civil Bills

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

| <b>Case</b>        | Antrim                | 137         |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
|                    | Ards                  | 202         |
|                    | Armagh and South Down | 131         |
|                    | Belfast               | 2392        |
|                    | Craigavon             | 170         |
|                    | Fermanagh and Tyrone  | 125         |
|                    | Londonderry           | 104         |
|                    | <b>Total</b>          | <b>3261</b> |
| <b>Application</b> | Antrim                | 126         |
|                    | Ards                  | 184         |
|                    | Armagh and South Down | 80          |
|                    | Belfast               | 695         |
|                    | Craigavon             | 132         |
|                    | Fermanagh and Tyrone  | 83          |
|                    | Londonderry           | 101         |
|                    | <b>Total</b>          | <b>1401</b> |

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

|                              | County<br>court judge | District judge | Total |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------|
| <b>Antrim</b>                | 123                   | 50             | 173   |
| <b>Ards</b>                  | 177                   | 59             | 236   |
| <b>Armagh and South Down</b> | 99                    | 60             | 159   |
| <b>Belfast</b>               | 458                   | 212            | 670   |
| <b>Craigavon</b>             | 131                   | 73             | 204   |
| <b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>  | 104                   | 70             | 174   |
| <b>Londonderry</b>           | 80                    | 70             | 150   |
| <b>Total</b>                 | 1172                  | 594            | 1766  |

Abbreviations: NID – Notice of Intention to Defend  
 NOD – Notice of Dispute  
 COR – Certificate of Readiness

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

|             |                         | Court result<br>- CCJ | Court<br>result - DDJ | Non court<br>disposals | Default<br>judgement | Office disposal | Total       |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Case        | Antrim                  | 122                   | 65                    | 38                     | 4                    | 27              | 256         |
|             | Ards                    | 152                   | 52                    | 39                     | 5                    | 14              | 262         |
|             | Armagh and South Down   | 56                    | 50                    | 34                     | 7                    | 13              | 160         |
|             | Belfast                 | 399                   | 193                   | 96                     | 8                    | 51              | 747         |
|             | Civil Processing Centre | .                     | .                     | 20                     | 610                  | 20              | 650         |
|             | Craigavon               | 38                    | 106                   | 39                     | 6                    | 18              | 207         |
|             | Fermanagh and Tyrone    | 125                   | 58                    | 30                     | 2                    | 18              | 233         |
|             | Londonderry             | 94                    | 70                    | 35                     | .                    | 16              | 215         |
|             | <b>Total</b>            | <b>986</b>            | <b>594</b>            | <b>331</b>             | <b>642</b>           | <b>177</b>      | <b>2730</b> |
| Application | Antrim                  | 28                    | 15                    | 12                     | .                    | .               | 55          |
|             | Ards                    | 43                    | 13                    | 37                     | .                    | .               | 93          |
|             | Armagh and South Down   | 15                    | 46                    | 17                     | .                    | .               | 78          |
|             | Belfast                 | 113                   | 135                   | 160                    | .                    | .               | 408         |
|             | Civil Processing Centre | .                     | .                     | 8                      | .                    | .               | 8           |
|             | Craigavon               | 15                    | 21                    | 41                     | .                    | .               | 77          |
|             | Fermanagh and Tyrone    | 35                    | 7                     | 15                     | .                    | .               | 57          |
|             | Londonderry             | 49                    | 20                    | 22                     | .                    | .               | 91          |
|             | <b>Total</b>            | <b>298</b>            | <b>257</b>            | <b>312</b>             | <b>.</b>             | <b>.</b>        | <b>867</b>  |

**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                | 29         | 16              | 46         | 44         | 52         | 187         |
|      | Ards                  | 49         | 17              | 54         | 54         | 30         | 204         |
|      | Armagh and South Down | 33         | 7               | 23         | 19         | 24         | 106         |
|      | Belfast               | 212        | 42              | 138        | 129        | 71         | 592         |
|      | Craigavon             | 30         | 15              | 35         | 40         | 24         | 144         |
|      | Fermanagh and Tyrone  | 49         | 12              | 47         | 38         | 37         | 183         |
|      | Londonderry           | 37         | 11              | 52         | 34         | 30         | 164         |
|      | <b>Total</b>          | <b>439</b> | <b>120</b>      | <b>395</b> | <b>358</b> | <b>268</b> | <b>1580</b> |

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

Abbreviations: NID – Notice of Intention to Defend  
 NOD – Notice of Dispute  
 COR – Certificate of Readiness

**Table 5: Outstanding civil bills with NID but no COR**

|                       | County court judge | District judge | Total       |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Antrim                | 261                | 112            | 373         |
| Ards                  | 253                | 91             | 344         |
| Armagh and South Down | 197                | 84             | 281         |
| Belfast               | 831                | 335            | 1166        |
| Craigavon             | 313                | 129            | 442         |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone  | 271                | 99             | 370         |
| Londonderry           | 217                | 140            | 357         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>2343</b>        | <b>990</b>     | <b>3333</b> |

**Table 6: Outstanding civil bills with COR**

|                       | County court judge | District judge | Total       |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Antrim                | 92                 | 37             | 129         |
| Ards                  | 158                | 46             | 204         |
| Armagh and South Down | 112                | 41             | 153         |
| Belfast               | 255                | 92             | 347         |
| Craigavon             | 75                 | 52             | 127         |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone  | 86                 | 65             | 151         |
| Londonderry           | 74                 | 47             | 121         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>852</b>         | <b>380</b>     | <b>1232</b> |

Abbreviations: NID – Notice of Intention to Defend  
NOD – Notice of Dispute  
COR – Certificate of Readiness

**Table 7: Time intervals in weeks for civil bill cases**

|             |                              | Issue to disposal |
|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Case</b> | <b>Antrim</b>                | 49                |
|             | <b>Ards</b>                  | 42                |
|             | <b>Armagh and South Down</b> | 52                |
|             | <b>Belfast</b>               | 42                |
|             | <b>Craigavon</b>             | 46                |
|             | <b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>  | 58                |
|             | <b>Londonderry</b>           | 53                |
|             | <b>Total</b>                 | 47                |

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

**Table 8: Time intervals in weeks for civil bill applications**

|                    |                              | Issue to disposal |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Application</b> | <b>Antrim</b>                | 4                 |
|                    | <b>Ards</b>                  | 3                 |
|                    | <b>Armagh and South Down</b> | 4                 |
|                    | <b>Belfast</b>               | 5                 |
|                    | <b>Craigavon</b>             | 4                 |
|                    | <b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>  | 5                 |
|                    | <b>Londonderry</b>           | 3                 |
|                    | <b>Total</b>                 | 4                 |

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

Abbreviations: NID – Notice of Intention to Defend  
 NOD – Notice of Dispute  
 COR – Certificate of Readiness



**Table 11: Outstanding equity cases**

| <b>Case</b>  | <b>Antrim</b>                | 51  |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----|
|              | <b>Ards</b>                  | 59  |
|              | <b>Armagh and South Down</b> | 46  |
|              | <b>Belfast</b>               | 121 |
|              | <b>Craigavon</b>             | 29  |
|              | <b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>  | 69  |
|              | <b>Londonderry</b>           | 43  |
| <b>Total</b> |                              | 418 |

**Table 12: Time intervals in weeks**

|                    |                              | <b>Issue to disposal</b> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Case</b>        | <b>Antrim</b>                | 50                       |
|                    | <b>Ards</b>                  | 69                       |
|                    | <b>Armagh and South Down</b> | 31                       |
|                    | <b>Belfast</b>               | 39                       |
|                    | <b>Craigavon</b>             | 30                       |
|                    | <b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>  | 53                       |
|                    | <b>Londonderry</b>           | 19                       |
|                    | <b>Total</b>                 | 42                       |
| <b>Application</b> | <b>Antrim</b>                | 2                        |
|                    | <b>Ards</b>                  | 2                        |
|                    | <b>Armagh and South Down</b> | 3                        |
|                    | <b>Belfast</b>               | 17                       |
|                    | <b>Craigavon</b>             | 19                       |
|                    | <b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>  | 2                        |
|                    | <b>Londonderry</b>           | 3                        |
|                    | <b>Total</b>                 | 5                        |

Abbreviations: NID – Notice of Intention to Defend  
 NOD – Notice of Dispute  
 COR – Certificate of Readiness



**Table 16: Time intervals in weeks**

|             |                              | <b>Issue to disposal</b> |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Case</b> | <b>Antrim</b>                | 12                       |
|             | <b>Ards</b>                  | 15                       |
|             | <b>Armagh and South Down</b> | 22                       |
|             | <b>Belfast</b>               | 37                       |
|             | <b>Craigavon</b>             | 19                       |
|             | <b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>  | 23                       |
|             | <b>Londonderry</b>           | 35                       |
|             | <b>Total</b>                 | 19                       |

Excludes default judgements, non-court disposals and office disposals

Abbreviations: NID – Notice of Intention to Defend  
NOD – Notice of Dispute  
COR – Certificate of Readiness



**Table 19: Number of small claims cases and applications disposed**

|             |                       | Court disposal | Non court disposal | Office disposal | Default judgement | Total       |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Case        | Antrim                | 72             | 2                  | 5               | 1                 | 80          |
|             | Ards                  | 75             | 2                  | 17              | 8                 | 102         |
|             | Armagh and South Down | 63             | .                  | 6               | 2                 | 71          |
|             | Belfast               | 153            | 8                  | 793             | 1557              | 2511        |
|             | Craigavon             | 47             | 1                  | 18              | 5                 | 71          |
|             | Fermanagh and Tyrone  | 39             | .                  | 9               | 1                 | 49          |
|             | Londonderry           | 46             | 4                  | 2               | 1                 | 53          |
|             | <b>Total</b>          | <b>495</b>     | <b>17</b>          | <b>850</b>      | <b>1575</b>       | <b>2937</b> |
| Application | Antrim                | 9              | 1                  | .               | .                 | 10          |
|             | Ards                  | 8              | .                  | .               | .                 | 8           |
|             | Armagh and South Down | 9              | .                  | .               | .                 | 9           |
|             | Belfast               | 18             | 3                  | .               | .                 | 21          |
|             | Craigavon             | 7              | .                  | .               | .                 | 7           |
|             | Fermanagh and Tyrone  | 3              | .                  | .               | .                 | 3           |
|             | Londonderry           | 1              | 2                  | .               | .                 | 3           |
|             | <b>Total</b>          | <b>55</b>      | <b>6</b>           | <b>.</b>        | <b>.</b>          | <b>61</b>   |

**Table 20: Outstanding small claims with NOD**

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
|                       |            |
| Antrim                | 92         |
| Ards                  | 157        |
| Armagh and South Down | 72         |
| Belfast               | 234        |
| Craigavon             | 107        |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone  | 93         |
| Londonderry           | 80         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>835</b> |

Abbreviations: NID – Notice of Intention to Defend  
 NOD – Notice of Dispute  
 COR – Certificate of Readiness

**Table 21: Time intervals in weeks**

|                    |                              | <b>Issue to disposal</b> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Case</b>        | <b>Antrim</b>                | 16                       |
|                    | <b>Ards</b>                  | 19                       |
|                    | <b>Armagh and South Down</b> | 15                       |
|                    | <b>Belfast</b>               | 19                       |
|                    | <b>Craigavon</b>             | 22                       |
|                    | <b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>  | 16                       |
|                    | <b>Londonderry</b>           | 17                       |
|                    | <b>Total</b>                 | 18                       |
| <b>Application</b> | <b>Antrim</b>                | 4                        |
|                    | <b>Ards</b>                  | 6                        |
|                    | <b>Armagh and South Down</b> | 7                        |
|                    | <b>Belfast</b>               | 3                        |
|                    | <b>Craigavon</b>             | 9                        |
|                    | <b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>  | 6                        |
|                    | <b>Londonderry</b>           | 5                        |
|                    | <b>Total</b>                 | 5                        |

Excludes default judgements, non-court disposals and office disposals

Abbreviations: NID – Notice of Intention to Defend  
 NOD – Notice of Dispute  
 COR – Certificate of Readiness

## Criminal Damage

**Table 22: Number of criminal damage cases and applications received**

| <b>Case</b>        | Antrim                | 1         |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
|                    | Armagh and South Down | 1         |
|                    | Belfast               | 7         |
|                    | Craigavon             | 1         |
|                    | Fermanagh and Tyrone  | 2         |
|                    | Londonderry           | 4         |
|                    | <b>Total</b>          | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Application</b> | Londonderry           | 1         |
|                    | <b>Total</b>          | <b>1</b>  |

**Table 23: Number of criminal damage cases and applications disposed**

|                    |              | Court disposal | Non court disposal | Total |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| <b>Case</b>        | Belfast      | 7              | 2                  | 9     |
|                    | <b>Total</b> | 7              | 2                  | 9     |
| <b>Application</b> | Londonderry  | 1              | .                  | 1     |
|                    | <b>Total</b> | 1              | .                  | 1     |

**Table 24: Outstanding criminal damage cases**

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
|                       |            |
| Antrim                | 3          |
| Ards                  | 2          |
| Armagh and South Down | 8          |
| Belfast               | 93         |
| Craigavon             | 21         |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone  | 12         |
| Londonderry           | 25         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>164</b> |

**Table 25: Time intervals in weeks**

|                    |              | Issue to disposal |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <b>Case</b>        | Belfast      | 87                |
|                    | <b>Total</b> | <b>87</b>         |
| <b>Application</b> | Londonderry  | 2                 |
|                    | <b>Total</b> | <b>2</b>          |

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

Abbreviations: NID – Notice of Intention to Defend  
 NOD – Notice of Dispute  
 COR – Certificate of Readiness



**Table 29: Matrimonial applications disposed**

|                       | Ancillary relief | Matrimonial application to a master | Other     | Total     |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Antrim                | 1                | .                                   | 2         | 3         |
| Ards                  | 3                | 1                                   | 2         | 6         |
| Armagh and South Down | 10               | 1                                   | 1         | 12        |
| Belfast               | 5                | .                                   | .         | 5         |
| Craigavon             | 4                | .                                   | .         | 4         |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone  | 13               | .                                   | 2         | 15        |
| Londonderry           | 19               | 3                                   | 5         | 27        |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>55</b>        | <b>5</b>                            | <b>12</b> | <b>72</b> |

**Table 30: Time intervals in weeks for divorce petitions**

|                       | Issue to date decree granted | Date decree granted to date absolute issued |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Antrim                | 26                           | 8   |
| Ards                  | 23                           | 7   |
| Armagh and South Down | 24                           | 8   |
| Belfast               | 34                           | 9   |
| Craigavon             | 23                           | 7   |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone  | 30                           | 8   |
| Londonderry           | 23                           | 9   |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>26</b>                    | <b>8</b>                                    |

**Table 31: Time intervals in weeks for divorce applications**

|                       | Issue to disposal |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Antrim                | 40                |
| Ards                  | 21                |
| Armagh and South Down | 48                |
| Belfast               | 35                |
| Craigavon             | 29                |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone  | 19                |
| Londonderry           | 45                |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>36</b>         |

Excludes non-court disposals

Abbreviations: NID – Notice of Intention to Defend  
 NOD – Notice of Dispute  
 COR – Certificate of Readiness

## Licences

**Table 32: Licences received and disposed**

|                       | Licence applications received | Licence applications dealt with |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Antrim                | 4                             | 9                               |
| Ards                  | 12                            | 12                              |
| Armagh and South Down | 9                             | 11                              |
| Belfast               | 0                             | 0                               |
| Craigavon             | 2                             | 0                               |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone  | 24                            | 11                              |
| Londonderry           | 0                             | 0                               |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>51</b>                     | <b>43</b>                       |

Abbreviations: NID – Notice of Intention to Defend  
NOD – Notice of Dispute  
COR – Certificate of Readiness

