

# County Court Bulletin

## January to March 2010

*serving the community through the administration of justice*

### Document Details

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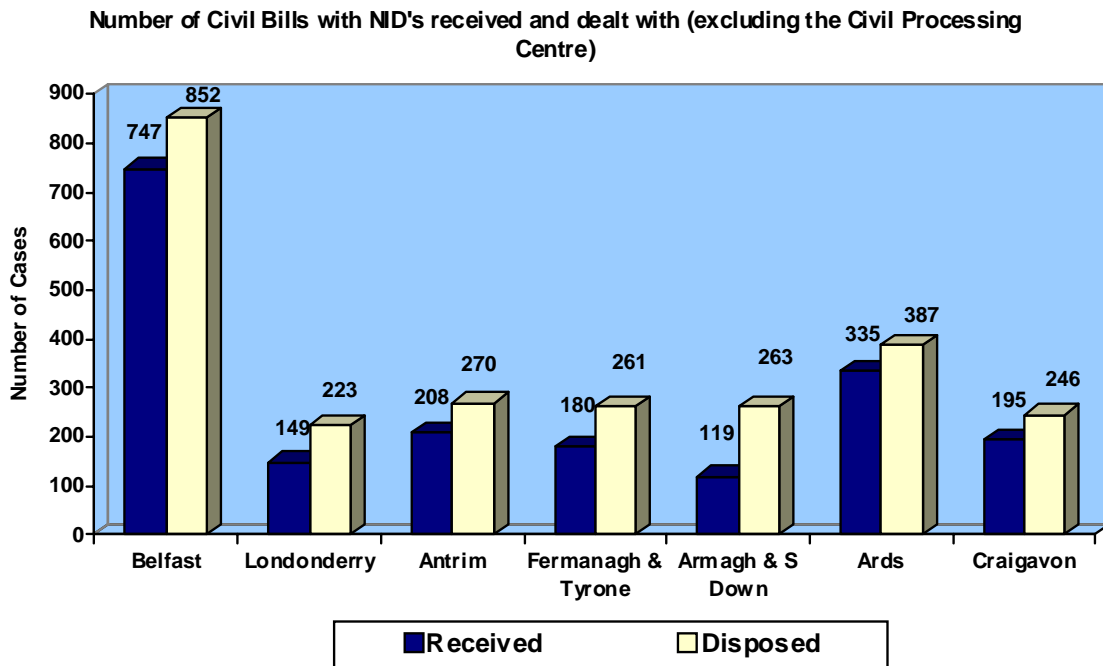
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**County court figures on Children Order cases, magistrates' appeals and county court appeals appear in other bulletins.**

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

## Summary

- There were 1,933 civil bills with a notice of intention to defend (NID) received during the quarter of January to March 2010. A total of 3,322 civil bills were disposed of during the quarter, of which 1,758 civil bills were disposed of in court.
- During the same period there were 52 equity cases received and 62 cases dealt with.
- There were 261 ejectment cases received and 190 ejectment cases disposed of during the reporting period.
- There were 3,640 small claims received and 3,018 disposed of during the period, of which 508 were disposed of in court and 1,794 were default judgments.
- In total, 320 decrees nisi were granted during the quarter, with 51% of these giving a reason of '2 years with consent'. There were 399 decrees absolute granted in the county court.
- There were 1,193 sitting days during the quarter, with 54% of time having been spent on criminal business



## Civil Bills

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

<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	253
	<b>Ards</b>	358
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	156
	<b>Belfast</b>	2787
	<b>Craigavon</b>	207
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	188
	<b>Londonderry</b>	173
	<b>Total</b>	4122
<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	106
	<b>Ards</b>	166
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	111
	<b>Belfast</b>	790
	<b>Craigavon</b>	112
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	88
	<b>Londonderry</b>	151
	<b>Total</b>	1524

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

	<b>County court judge</b>	<b>District judge</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Antrim</b>	137	71	208
<b>Ards</b>	223	112	335
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	82	37	119
<b>Belfast</b>	516	231	747
<b>Craigavon</b>	121	74	195
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	120	60	180
<b>Londonderry</b>	95	54	149
<b>Total</b>	1294	639	1933

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

		Court result - CCJ	Court result - DJ	Non court disposals	Default judgement	Office disposal	Total
Case	Antrim	92	94	60	4	20	270
	Ards	200	86	75	5	21	387
	Armagh and South Down	127	38	83	4	11	263
	Belfast	378	235	168	16	55	852
	Civil Processing Centre			26	771	23	820
	Craigavon	107	57	55	4	23	246
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	107	76	58	4	16	261
	Londonderry	81	80	47	1	14	223
	Total	1092	666	572	809	183	3322
Application	Antrim	22	17	16			55
	Ards	34	13	33			80
	Armagh and South Down	22	8	12			42
	Belfast	92	33	100			225
	Civil Processing Centre			51			51
	Craigavon	21	7	23			51
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	27	16	15			58
	Londonderry	41	16	17			74
	Total	259	110	267			636

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

		No value	Less than £1000	£1000-2999	£3000-4999	Over £5000	Total
<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	51	19	41	43	32	186
	<b>Ards</b>	63	35	78	60	50	286
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	54	15	36	21	39	165
	<b>Belfast</b>	180	64	151	118	100	613
	<b>Craigavon</b>	28	22	56	29	29	164
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	47	18	50	36	32	183
	<b>Londonderry</b>	58	13	35	34	21	161
	<b>Total</b>	481	186	447	341	303	1758

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
<b>Antrim</b>	280	114	394
<b>Ards</b>	306	161	467
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	208	77	285
<b>Belfast</b>	1074	410	1484
<b>Craigavon</b>	316	151	467
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	307	131	438
<b>Londonderry</b>	193	137	330
<b>Total</b>	2684	1181	3865

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

	County court judge	District judge	Total
Antrim	110	41	151
Ards	130	53	183
Armagh and South Down	97	35	132
Belfast	343	96	439
Craigavon	105	43	148
Fermanagh and Tyrone	80	49	129
Londonderry	43	46	89
<b>Total</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>1271</b>

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

Case	Issue to disposal
Antrim	38
Ards	37
Armagh and South Down	62
Belfast	43
Craigavon	49
Fermanagh and Tyrone	51
Londonderry	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

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

		<b>Issue to disposal</b>
<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	7
	<b>Ards</b>	6
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	7
	<b>Belfast</b>	5
	<b>Craigavon</b>	9
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	4
	<b>Londonderry</b>	4
	<b>Total</b>	6

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

## Equity

**Table 9: Equity cases and applications received**

<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	8
	<b>Ards</b>	2
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	5
	<b>Belfast</b>	19
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	12
	<b>Londonderry</b>	6
	<b>Total</b>	52
<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	3
	<b>Ards</b>	1
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	7
	<b>Belfast</b>	6
	<b>Craigavon</b>	2
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	5
	<b>Londonderry</b>	5
	<b>Total</b>	29

**Table 10: Equity cases and applications disposed**

		<b>Court result</b>	<b>Non court disposals</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	3	1	4
	<b>Ards</b>	6	1	7
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	19	2	21
	<b>Belfast</b>	10	1	11
	<b>Craigavon</b>	5		5
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	8		8
	<b>Londonderry</b>	6		6
	<b>Total</b>	57	5	62
<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	1	1	2
	<b>Ards</b>	2		2
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	7	3	10
	<b>Belfast</b>	4	1	5
	<b>Craigavon</b>	2		2
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	3		3
	<b>Londonderry</b>	5		5
	<b>Total</b>	24	5	29

**Table 11: Outstanding equity cases**

<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	50
	<b>Ards</b>	62
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	54
	<b>Belfast</b>	110
	<b>Craigavon</b>	23
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	59
	<b>Londonderry</b>	39
<b>Total</b>		397

**Table 12: Time intervals in weeks**

		<b>Issue to disposal</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	77
	<b>Ards</b>	91
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	146
	<b>Belfast</b>	71
	<b>Craigavon</b>	62
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	82
	<b>Londonderry</b>	53
	<b>Average</b>	97
<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	6
	<b>Ards</b>	5
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	35
	<b>Belfast</b>	4
	<b>Craigavon</b>	10
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	7
	<b>Londonderry</b>	16
	<b>Average</b>	17

## Ejectment

Table 13: Ejectment cases received

Case	Antrim	21
	Ards	70
	Armagh and South Down	5
	Belfast	119
	Craigavon	22
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	12
	Londonderry	12
	Total	261

Table 14: Ejectment cases disposed

		Court result	Non court disposals	Office disposal	Total
Case	Antrim	18			18
	Ards	59	1		60
	Armagh and South Down	3	1	1	5
	Belfast	55			55
	Craigavon	24			24
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	13			13
	Londonderry	15			15
	Total	187	2	1	190

Table 15: Outstanding ejectment cases with NID

Case	Antrim	4
	Ards	7
	Armagh and South Down	7
	Belfast	18
	Craigavon	6
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	6
	Londonderry	5
Total	53	

**Table 16: Time intervals in weeks**

		<b>Issue to disposal</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	8
	<b>Ards</b>	14
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	11
	<b>Belfast</b>	16
	<b>Craigavon</b>	13
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	20
	<b>Londonderry</b>	21
	<b>Average</b>	15

Excludes default judgements, non-court disposals and office disposals

## Small Claims

**Table 17: Number of small claims cases and applications received**

<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	47
	<b>Ards</b>	77
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	51
	<b>Belfast</b>	3297
	<b>Craigavon</b>	59
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	53
	<b>Londonderry</b>	56
	<b>Total</b>	3640
<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	4
	<b>Ards</b>	8
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	3
	<b>Belfast</b>	23
	<b>Craigavon</b>	8
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	13
	<b>Londonderry</b>	11
	<b>Total</b>	70

**Table 18: Number of small claims cases with NODs received**

<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	43
	<b>Ards</b>	69
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	56
	<b>Belfast</b>	185
	<b>Craigavon</b>	59
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	51
	<b>Londonderry</b>	46
<b>Total</b>	509	

Table 19: Number of small claims cases and applications disposed

		Court disposal	Non court disposal	Office disposal	Default judgement	Total
Case	Antrim	52	4	9	2	67
	Ards	76		23	3	102
	Armagh and South Down	60	3	3		66
	Belfast	164	4	636	1787	2591
	Craigavon	59		10	1	70
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	48	1	9	1	59
	Londonderry	49	1	13		63
	<b>Total</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>1794</b>	<b>3018</b>
Application	Antrim	1				1
	Ards	9	1			10
	Armagh and South Down	1				1
	Belfast	23	1			24
	Craigavon	6				6
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	9				9
	Londonderry	9				9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>60</b>

Table 20: Outstanding small claims with NOD

Antrim	65
Ards	149
Armagh and South Down	82
Belfast	170
Craigavon	105
Fermanagh and Tyrone	101
Londonderry	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>764</b>

**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>	20
	<b>Belfast</b>	17
	<b>Craigavon</b>	21
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	27
	<b>Londonderry</b>	24
	<b>Average</b>	20
<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	5
	<b>Ards</b>	13
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	4
	<b>Belfast</b>	4
	<b>Craigavon</b>	11
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	5
	<b>Londonderry</b>	5
	<b>Average</b>	7

Excludes default judgements, non-court disposals and office disposals

## Criminal Damage

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

<b>Case</b>	<b>Belfast</b>	7
	<b>Craigavon</b>	2
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	1
	<b>Total</b>	10
<b>Application</b>	<b>Belfast</b>	1
	<b>Londonderry</b>	1
	<b>Total</b>	2

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

		<b>Court disposal</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>Belfast</b>	20	20
	<b>Total</b>	20	20

**Table 24: Outstanding criminal damage cases**

<b>Antrim</b>	1
<b>Ards</b>	2
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	6
<b>Belfast</b>	62
<b>Craigavon</b>	19
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	6
<b>Londonderry</b>	12
<b>Total</b>	108

**Table 25: Time intervals in weeks**

		<b>Issue to disposal</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>Belfast</b>	123
	<b>Total</b>	123

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

## Divorces

**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	24	20	1	4	2	51
Ards	33	16	1	5		55
Armagh and South Down	18	14		3	1	36
Belfast	30	19		1	4	54
Craigavon	25	16	2	3	1	47
Fermanagh and Tyrone	9	8		5	1	23
Londonderry	23	15	1	8	7	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>320</b>

**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	24	29		3	7	63
Ards	33	15		2	1	51
Armagh and South Down	17	15		3	5	40
Belfast	37	16			1	54
Craigavon	40	11		3	4	58
Fermanagh and Tyrone	15	19		6	7	47
Londonderry	30	33	3	13	7	86
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>399</b>

**Table 28: Matrimonial applications received**

	Ancillary relief	Other	Total
Antrim	5		5
Ards	7		7
Armagh and South Down	8		8
Belfast	3	8	11
Craigavon	5		5
Fermanagh and Tyrone	9	1	10
Londonderry	16	1	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>63</b>

**Table 29: Matrimonial applications disposed**

	Ancillary relief	Matrimonial application to a master	Other	Total
Antrim	8			8
Ards	3		1	4
Armagh and South Down	4			4
Belfast	3		1	4
Craigavon	1			1
Fermanagh and Tyrone	5			5
Londonderry	14	1	3	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>44</b>

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

	<b>Issue to date decree granted</b>	<b>Date decree granted to date absolute issued</b>
<b>Antrim</b>	33	8
<b>Ards</b>	35	8
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	35	9
<b>Belfast</b>	34	10
<b>Craigavon</b>	25	7
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	55	9
<b>Londonderry</b>	39	8
<b>Average</b>	35	8

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

	<b>Issue to disposal</b>
<b>Antrim</b>	57
<b>Ards</b>	22
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	32
<b>Belfast</b>	30
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	37
<b>Londonderry</b>	57
<b>Average</b>	47

Excludes non-court disposals

## Licences

**Table 32: Licences received and dealt with**

	<b>Licences Received</b>	<b>Licences Disposed</b>
<b>Antrim</b>	6	4
<b>Ards</b>	3	6
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	6	3
<b>Belfast</b>	17	19
<b>Craigavon</b>	4	4
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	10	16
<b>Londonderry</b>	3	1
<b>Total</b>	49	53

## Sitting Days

**Table 33: County Court Sitting Days**

	Total time			Total criminal time	Total civil time	Total family time
	Number of sitting days	Average sitting	Total time			
<b>Antrim</b>	135	03:01	406:41	248:25	141:04	17:12
<b>Ards</b>	128	02:35	331:04	137:29	181:25	12:10
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	123	02:39	326:44	204:28	115:33	06:43
<b>Belfast</b>	418	03:15	1357:45	749:29	374:08	234:08
<b>Craigavon</b>	132	02:53	381:15	164:33	118:38	98:04
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	120	03:11	381:33	205:39	159:16	16:38
<b>Londonderry</b>	137	02:49	385:19	219:52	118:59	46:28
<b>Total</b>	1193	03:00	3570:21	1929:55	1209:03	431:23

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

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