

County Court Bulletin

July – September 2011

serving the community through the administration of justice

Document Details

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Provisional Figures |
| Date issued: | 18 November 2011 |
| Document Authors: | Statistics & Research |

Contents

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

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

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

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

Table 5: Outstanding civil bills with NID but no COR

Table 6: Outstanding civil bills with COR

Table 7: Time intervals in weeks for civil bill cases

Table 8: Time intervals in weeks for civil bill applications

Table 9: Equity cases and applications received

Table 10: Equity cases and applications disposed

Table 11: Outstanding equity cases

Table 12: Time intervals in weeks for equity

Table 13: Ejectment cases received

Table 14: Ejectment cases disposed

Table 15: Outstanding ejectment cases with NID

Table 16: Time intervals in weeks for ejectment

Table 17: Number of small claims cases and applications received

Table 18: Number of small claims cases with NODs received

Table 19: Number of small claims cases and applications disposed

Table 20: Outstanding small claims with NOD

Table 21: Time intervals in weeks for small claims

Table 22: Number of criminal damage cases and applications received

Table 23: Number of criminal damage cases and applications disposed

Table 24: Outstanding criminal damage cases

Table 25: Time interval in weeks for criminal damage

Table 26: Divorce petitions by type of decrees Nisi

Table 27: Divorce petitions by number of absolutes issued

Table 28: Matrimonial applications received

Table 29: Matrimonial applications disposed

Table 30: Time intervals in weeks for divorce petitions

Table 31: Time intervals in weeks for divorce applications

Table 32: Licences received and disposed

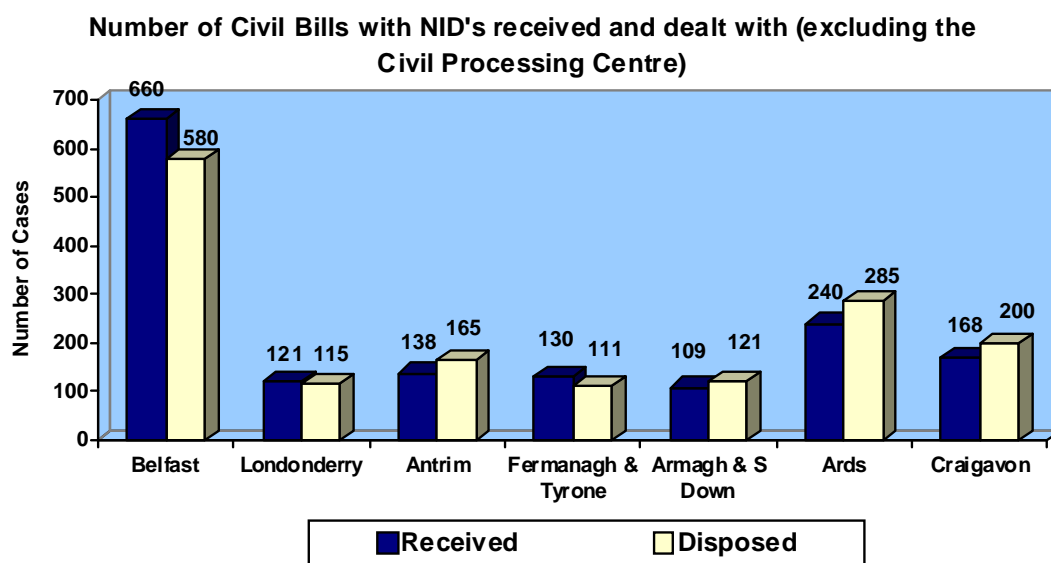
Table 33: County Court Judge & District Judge sitting days

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 1,566 civil bills with a notice of intention to defend (NID) received between July - September 2011. This a 19% decrease on the 1,931 NIDs received in July - September 2010. A total of 2,206 civil bills were disposed of during the quarter, of which 901 civil bills were disposed of in court. This is a 12% decrease on the civil bills disposed during July - September 2010 (2,509), and an 11% decrease in the number of civil bills disposed of in court (1,011).
- From July - September 2011 there were 42 equity cases received and 29 cases dealt with. Compared with 44 equity cases received and 26 cases dealt with in July - September 2010.
- There were 157 ejectment cases received and 109 ejectment cases disposed of during the reporting period. This is a 40% decrease on the cases received and a 34% decrease on the cases disposed against the same period last year (261 and 166 respectively).
- There were 3,161 small claims received during the period, an 8% decrease than the same period last year (3,428). There were 2,431 small claims cases disposed of during the period a 19% decrease on the 3,004 disposed between July - September 2010. During the quarter 307 were disposed of in court and 1,547 were default judgments.
- In total, 323 decrees nisi were granted during the quarter, with 46% of these giving a reason of '2 years with consent'. In comparison, during the same period last year there were 278 decrees nisi granted, with 49% of these giving a reason of '2 years with consent'. Between July - September 2011 there were 304 decrees absolute granted in the county court, this is a 19% decrease on the 376 decrees absolute granted in the same period last year.
- There were 602 sitting days during the quarter, with 57% of time having been spent on criminal business. In comparison there were 551 sitting days, with 53% of time spent on criminal business between July - September 2010.



Civil Bills

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

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|------|
| Case | Antrim | 149 |
| | Ards | 229 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 113 |
| | Belfast | 2096 |
| | Craigavon | 174 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 145 |
| | Londonderry | 132 |
| | Total | 3038 |
| Application | Antrim | 83 |
| | Ards | 126 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 81 |
| | Belfast | 661 |
| | Craigavon | 114 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 49 |
| | Londonderry | 93 |
| | Total | 1207 |

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

| | County court judge | District judge | Total |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------|
| Antrim | 89 | 49 | 138 |
| Ards | 136 | 104 | 240 |
| Armagh and South Down | 70 | 39 | 109 |
| Belfast | 477 | 183 | 660 |
| Craigavon | 105 | 63 | 168 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 90 | 40 | 130 |
| Londonderry | 66 | 55 | 121 |
| Total | 1033 | 533 | 1566 |

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 | 59 | 37 | 33 | 1 | 35 | 165 |
| | Ards | 99 | 60 | 85 | 9 | 32 | 285 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 57 | 8 | 35 | 7 | 14 | 121 |
| | Belfast | 212 | 106 | 163 | 4 | 95 | 580 |
| | Civil Processing Centre | | | 53 | 528 | 48 | 629 |
| | Craigavon | 106 | 4 | 58 | 6 | 26 | 200 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 68 | 8 | 21 | 2 | 12 | 111 |
| | Londonderry | 42 | 35 | 21 | 3 | 14 | 115 |
| | Total | 643 | 258 | 469 | 560 | 276 | 2206 |
| Application | Antrim | 39 | 11 | 5 | | | 55 |
| | Ards | 32 | 9 | 38 | | | 79 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 27 | | 9 | | | 36 |
| | Belfast | 58 | 25 | 72 | | | 155 |
| | Civil Processing Centre | | | 26 | | | 26 |
| | Craigavon | 27 | | 17 | | | 44 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 24 | 2 | 8 | | | 34 |
| | Londonderry | 16 | 11 | 11 | | | 38 |
| | Total | 223 | 58 | 186 | | | 467 |

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 | 16 | 16 | 20 | 23 | 21 | 96 |
| | Ards | 42 | 10 | 40 | 41 | 26 | 159 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 16 | 11 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 65 |
| | Belfast | 128 | 28 | 71 | 54 | 37 | 318 |
| | Craigavon | 39 | 12 | 22 | 17 | 20 | 110 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 26 | 5 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 76 |
| | Londonderry | 24 | 9 | 18 | 14 | 12 | 77 |
| | Total | 291 | 91 | 200 | 175 | 144 | 901 |

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 | 334 | 129 | 463 |
| Ards | 238 | 136 | 374 |
| Armagh and South Down | 180 | 74 | 254 |
| Belfast | 1421 | 373 | 1794 |
| Craigavon | 296 | 104 | 400 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 271 | 85 | 356 |
| Londonderry | 169 | 165 | 334 |
| Total | 2909 | 1066 | 3975 |

Table 6: Outstanding civil bills with COR

| | County court judge | District judge | Total |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------|
| Antrim | 110 | 48 | 158 |
| Ards | 159 | 66 | 225 |
| Armagh and South Down | 89 | 44 | 133 |
| Belfast | 512 | 115 | 627 |
| Craigavon | 89 | 54 | 143 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 88 | 43 | 131 |
| Londonderry | 67 | 55 | 122 |
| Total | 1114 | 425 | 1539 |

Table 7: Time intervals in weeks for civil bill cases

| Case | Issue to disposal |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Antrim | 46 |
| Ards | 41 |
| Armagh and South Down | 52 |
| Belfast | 47 |
| Craigavon | 55 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 49 |
| Londonderry | 52 |
| Total | 48 |

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

Table 8: Time intervals in weeks for civil bill applications

| | | Issue to disposal |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Application | Antrim | 6 |
| | Ards | 16 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 4 |
| | Belfast | 6 |
| | Craigavon | 10 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 14 |
| | Londonderry | 6 |
| | Total | 8 |

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

Equity

Table 9: Equity cases and applications received

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|----|
| Case | Antrim | 4 |
| | Ards | 6 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 6 |
| | Belfast | 10 |
| | Craigavon | 2 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 13 |
| | Londonderry | 1 |
| | Total | 42 |
| Application | Ards | 1 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 1 |
| | Belfast | 1 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 8 |
| | Londonderry | 1 |
| | Total | 12 |

Table 10: Equity cases and applications disposed

| | | Court result - CCJ | Non court disposals | Total |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Case | Antrim | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| | Ards | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 3 | | 3 |
| | Belfast | 6 | | 6 |
| | Craigavon | 2 | | 2 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 6 | | 6 |
| | Total | 23 | 6 | 29 |
| Application | Antrim | 1 | | 1 |
| | Ards | 1 | | 1 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | Belfast | 1 | | 1 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 6 | | 6 |
| | Londonderry | | 1 | 1 |
| | Total | 10 | 2 | 12 |

Table 11: Outstanding equity cases

| | | |
|-------|-----------------------|----|
| Case | Antrim | 38 |
| | Ards | 40 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 43 |
| | Belfast | 71 |
| | Craigavon | 21 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 77 |
| | Londonderry | 32 |
| Total | 322 | |

Table 12: Time intervals in weeks

| | | Issue to disposal |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Case | Antrim | 83 |
| | Ards | 108 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 59 |
| | Belfast | 32 |
| | Craigavon | 65 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 31 |
| | Total | 56 |
| Application | Antrim | 11 |
| | Ards | 11 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 4 |
| | Belfast | 1 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 8 |
| | Total | 7 |

Ejectment

Table 13: Ejectment cases received

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|-----|
| Case | Antrim | 3 |
| | Ards | 32 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 7 |
| | Belfast | 83 |
| | Craigavon | 25 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 2 |
| | Londonderry | 5 |
| | Total | 157 |

Table 14: Ejectment cases disposed

| | | Court result - CCJ | Court result - DJ | Non court disposals | Total |
|------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Case | Antrim | 1 | 5 | | 6 |
| | Ards | 16 | 14 | 1 | 31 |
| | Armagh and South Down | | 4 | | 4 |
| | Belfast | | 47 | 1 | 48 |
| | Craigavon | 1 | 6 | | 7 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 4 | 1 | | 5 |
| | Londonderry | 1 | 7 | | 8 |
| | Total | 23 | 84 | 2 | 109 |

Table 15: Outstanding ejectment cases with NID

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|----|
| Case | Antrim | 6 |
| | Ards | 3 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 5 |
| | Belfast | 14 |
| | Craigavon | 4 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 3 |
| | Londonderry | 3 |
| | Total | 38 |

Table 16: Time intervals in weeks

| | | Issue to disposal |
|------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Case | Antrim | 16 |
| | Ards | 24 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 12 |
| | Belfast | 19 |
| | Craigavon | 18 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 20 |
| | Londonderry | 67 |
| | Total | 24 |

Excludes default judgements, non-court disposals and office disposals

Small Claims

Table 17: Number of small claims cases and applications received

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|------|
| Case | Antrim | 55 |
| | Ards | 69 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 68 |
| | Belfast | 2837 |
| | Craigavon | 57 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 40 |
| | Londonderry | 35 |
| | Total | 3161 |
| Application | Antrim | 3 |
| | Ards | 9 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 10 |
| | Belfast | 38 |
| | Craigavon | 7 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 5 |
| | Londonderry | 4 |
| | Total | 76 |

Table 18: Number of small claims cases with NODs received

| | | |
|-------|-----------------------|-----|
| Case | Antrim | 42 |
| | Ards | 52 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 42 |
| | Belfast | 179 |
| | Craigavon | 44 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 52 |
| | Londonderry | 26 |
| Total | 437 | |

Table 19: Number of small claims cases and applications disposed

| | | Court disposal | Non court disposal | Office disposal | Default judgement | Total |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|
| Case | Antrim | 26 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 38 |
| | Ards | 23 | 6 | 13 | 3 | 45 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 26 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 38 |
| | Belfast | 139 | 4 | 524 | 1536 | 2203 |
| | Craigavon | 16 | 3 | 1 | | 20 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 41 | | 5 | 1 | 47 |
| | Londonderry | 36 | | 2 | 2 | 40 |
| | Total | 307 | 27 | 550 | 1547 | 2431 |
| Application | Antrim | 3 | | | | 3 |
| | Ards | 2 | 4 | | | 6 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 8 | 1 | | | 9 |
| | Belfast | 36 | | | | 36 |
| | Craigavon | 5 | | | | 5 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 3 | | | | 3 |
| | Londonderry | 1 | | | | 1 |
| | Total | 58 | 5 | | | 63 |

Table 20: Outstanding small claims with NOD

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Antrim | 90 |
| Ards | 93 |
| Armagh and South Down | 49 |
| Belfast | 212 |
| Craigavon | 68 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 118 |
| Londonderry | 50 |
| Total | 680 |

Table 21: Time intervals in weeks

| | | Issue to disposal |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Case | Antrim | 27 |
| | Ards | 25 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 20 |
| | Belfast | 30 |
| | Craigavon | 23 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 20 |
| | Londonderry | 22 |
| | Total | 26 |
| | Application | Antrim |
| Ards | | 10 |
| Armagh and South Down | | 11 |
| Belfast | | 8 |
| Craigavon | | 11 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | | 12 |
| Londonderry | | 7 |
| Total | | 9 |

Excludes default judgements, non-court disposals and office disposals

Criminal Damage

Table 22: Number of criminal damage cases and applications received

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------|---|
| Case | Belfast | 1 |
| | Craigavon | 1 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 1 |
| | Total | 3 |
| Application | Craigavon | 1 |
| | Total | 1 |

Table 23: Number of criminal damage cases and applications disposed

| | | Court disposal | Non court disposal | Total |
|-------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| Case | Belfast | 2 | | 2 |
| | Total | 2 | | 2 |
| Application | Craigavon | | 1 | 1 |
| | Total | | 1 | 1 |

Table 24: Outstanding criminal damage cases

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Ards | 1 |
| Armagh and South Down | 4 |
| Belfast | 41 |
| Craigavon | 15 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 4 |
| Londonderry | 2 |
| Total | 67 |

Table 25: Time intervals in weeks

| | | Issue to disposal |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Case | Belfast | 93 |
| | Total | 93 |
| Application | Craigavon | 0 |
| | Total | 0 |

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 | 33 | 22 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 65 |
| Ards | 23 | 20 | 1 | | 1 | 45 |
| Armagh and South Down | 19 | 16 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 41 |
| Belfast | 25 | 25 | | 4 | 5 | 59 |
| Craigavon | 27 | 12 | | 7 | 4 | 50 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 8 | 10 | | 2 | 3 | 23 |
| Londonderry | 15 | 20 | | 2 | 3 | 40 |
| Total | 150 | 125 | 4 | 22 | 22 | 323 |

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 | 39 | 25 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 74 |
| Ards | 23 | 14 | | 1 | 2 | 40 |
| Armagh and South Down | 8 | 16 | | 5 | | 29 |
| Belfast | 37 | 20 | | 3 | 3 | 63 |
| Craigavon | 16 | 13 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 37 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 13 | 8 | | | | 21 |
| Londonderry | 13 | 14 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 40 |
| Total | 149 | 110 | 3 | 30 | 12 | 304 |

Table 28: Matrimonial applications received

| | Ancillary relief | Matrimonial application to a master | Other | Total |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Antrim | 11 | | 2 | 13 |
| Armagh and South Down | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| Belfast | 4 | | 22 | 26 |
| Craigavon | 3 | | 1 | 4 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 3 | | | 3 |
| Londonderry | 5 | 2 | 4 | 11 |
| Total | 28 | 3 | 29 | 60 |

Table 29: Matrimonial applications disposed

| | Ancillary relief | Matrimonial application to a master | Other | Total |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Antrim | 4 | | 1 | 5 |
| Ards | 4 | | | 4 |
| Armagh and South Down | 4 | | | 4 |
| Belfast | 2 | | | 2 |
| Craigavon | 2 | | | 2 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 4 | | | 4 |
| Londonderry | 10 | 1 | 2 | 13 |
| Total | 30 | 1 | 3 | 34 |

Table 30: Time intervals in weeks for divorce petitions

| | Issue to date decree granted | Date decree granted to date absolute issued |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Antrim | 20 | 8 |
| Ards | 23 | 8 |
| Armagh and South Down | 40 | 6 |
| Belfast | 35 | 8 |
| Craigavon | 27 | 8 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 45 | . |
| Londonderry | 23 | 8 |
| Total | 29 | 8 |

Table 31: Time intervals in weeks for divorce applications

| | Issue to disposal |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Antrim | 30 |
| Ards | 45 |
| Armagh and South Down | 64 |
| Belfast | 8 |
| Craigavon | 36 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 42 |
| Londonderry | 72 |
| Total | 51 |

Excludes non-court disposals

Licences

Table 32: Licences received and dealt with

| | Licences Received | Licences Disposed |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Antrim | 3 | 2 |
| Ards | 11 | 6 |
| South Down | 4 | 0 |
| Belfast | 24 | 17 |
| Craigavon | 4 | 4 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 5 | 3 |
| Londonderry | 4 | 3 |
| Total | 55 | 35 |

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 | | | |
| Antrim | 64 | 02:55:13 | 186:54:10 | 106:52:00 | 70:47:10 | 09:15:00 |
| Ards | 74 | 03:25:10 | 253:03:00 | 158:08:00 | 90:05:00 | 04:50:00 |
| Armagh and South Down | 59 | 02:09:46 | 127:37:00 | 69:35:00 | 50:19:00 | 07:43:00 |
| Belfast | 223 | 03:19:11 | 740:19:24 | 434:39:24 | 203:50:00 | 101:50:00 |
| Craigavon | 74 | 03:38:51 | 269:56:00 | 133:14:00 | 76:50:00 | 59:52:00 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 55 | 02:55:56 | 161:17:00 | 95:09:00 | 49:03:00 | 17:05:00 |
| Londonderry | 52 | 02:32:00 | 131:44:00 | 64:54:00 | 34:30:00 | 32:20:00 |
| Queen's Bench division | 1 | 00:50:00 | 00:50:00 | 00:50:00 | 00:00:00 | 00:00:00 |
| Total | 602 | 03:06:32 | 1871:40:34 | 1063:21:24 | 575:24:10 | 232:55:00 |

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.

For further information on this publication please contact:

C Darragh
Statistics and Research
Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service
Laganside House
23-27 Oxford Street
Belfast
BT1 3LA

Tel: 028 9072 8927