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Northern Ireland Court Service

County Court Bulletin

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(PROVISIONAL FIGURES)

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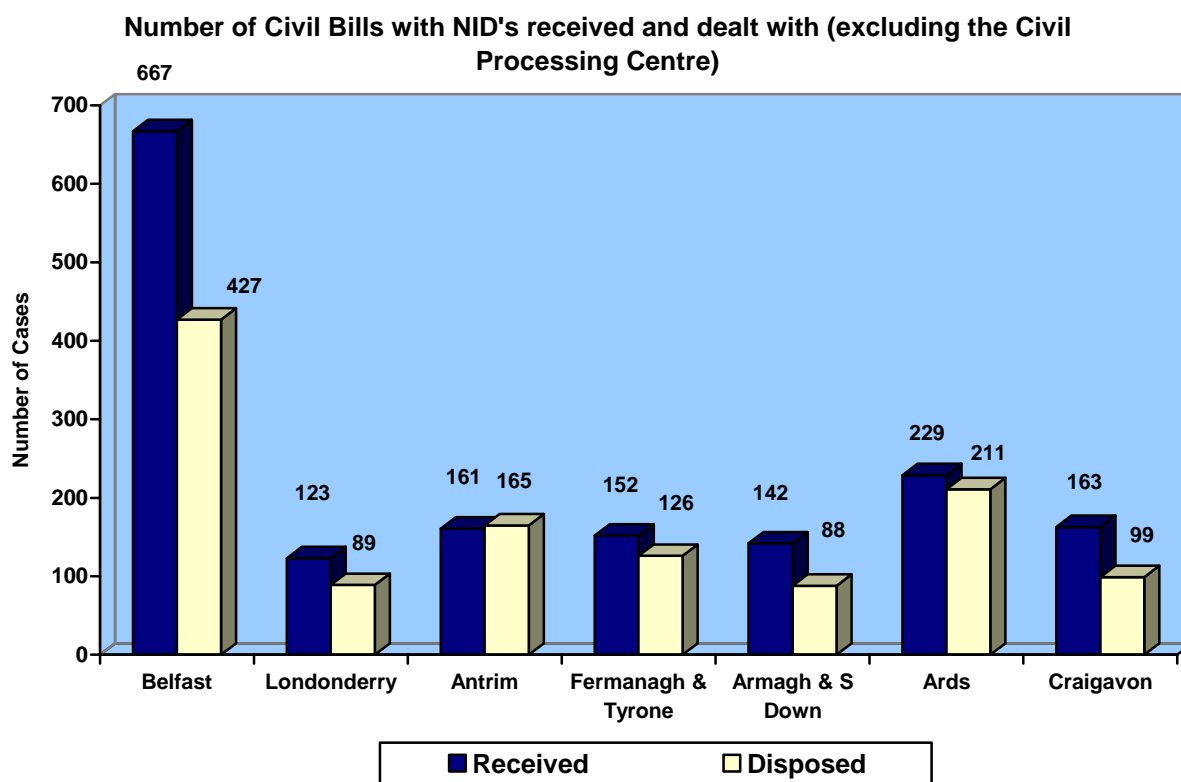
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Figures are run from an administrative database and may change due to late returns and further validations.

Summary

- There were 1,637 civil bills with NID's received during the quarter, and 1,998 Civil Bills disposed of, with 856 civil bills disposed of in court and 1,142 disposed of in the office.
- During the period there were 68 Equity cases received and 55 cases dealt with.
- There were 259 ejectment cases received and 153 ejectment cases disposed of during the reporting period.
- There were 3,356 small claims received and 2,575 disposed of during the period, of which 276 were disposed of in court and 1,565 were default judgments.
- In total, 343 Decrees Nisi were granted during the quarter, with 52% of these giving a reason of '2 years with consent'. There were 393 decrees absolute granted in the county court with over one fifth being granted in Belfast division (21%).
- There were 573 sitting days during the quarter with 44% of time being spent on criminal business.



Civil Bills

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

| Case | Antrim | 189 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | Ards | 258 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 164 |
| | Belfast | 2516 |
| | Craigavon | 181 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 144 |
| | Londonderry | 131 |
| | Total | 3583 |
| Application | Antrim | 123 |
| | Ards | 117 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 93 |
| | Belfast | 604 |
| | Craigavon | 106 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 78 |
| | Londonderry | 92 |
| | Total | 1213 |

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

| | County court judge | District judge | Total |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Antrim | 119 | 42 | 161 |
| Ards | 138 | 91 | 229 |
| Armagh and South Down | 87 | 55 | 142 |
| Belfast | 438 | 229 | 667 |
| Craigavon | 95 | 68 | 163 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 98 | 54 | 152 |
| Londonderry | 69 | 54 | 123 |
| Total | 1044 | 593 | 1637 |

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 | 61 | 58 | 34 | 1 | 11 | 165 |
| | Ards | 112 | 52 | 31 | 6 | 10 | 211 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 29 | 29 | 18 | 2 | 10 | 88 |
| | Belfast | 182 | 142 | 66 | 8 | 29 | 427 |
| | Civil Processing Centre | . | . | 67 | 621 | 105 | 793 |
| | Craigavon | 23 | 26 | 32 | 4 | 14 | 99 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 49 | 41 | 26 | . | 10 | 126 |
| | Londonderry | 13 | 39 | 25 | 1 | 11 | 89 |
| | Total | 469 | 387 | 299 | 643 | 200 | 1998 |
| Application | Antrim | 29 | 26 | 19 | . | . | 74 |
| | Ards | 23 | 11 | 23 | . | . | 57 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 4 | 21 | 23 | . | . | 48 |
| | Belfast | 53 | 18 | 71 | . | . | 142 |
| | Civil Processing Centre | . | . | 11 | . | . | 11 |
| | Craigavon | 13 | 12 | 24 | . | . | 49 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 26 | 9 | 10 | . | . | 45 |
| | Londonderry | 12 | 9 | 19 | . | . | 40 |
| | Total | 160 | 106 | 200 | . | . | 466 |

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 | 21 | 9 | 37 | 32 | 20 | 119 |
| | Ards | 44 | 17 | 32 | 41 | 30 | 164 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 10 | 8 | 18 | 11 | 11 | 58 |
| | Belfast | 141 | 27 | 73 | 58 | 25 | 324 |
| | Craigavon | 9 | 7 | 18 | 8 | 7 | 49 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 27 | 9 | 23 | 15 | 16 | 90 |
| | Londonderry | 20 | 7 | 13 | 9 | 3 | 52 |
| | Total | 272 | 84 | 214 | 174 | 112 | 856 |

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 | 273 | 100 | 373 |
| Ards | 257 | 138 | 395 |
| Armagh and South Down | 217 | 99 | 316 |
| Belfast | 960 | 366 | 1326 |
| Craigavon | 293 | 130 | 423 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 263 | 95 | 358 |
| Londonderry | 221 | 137 | 358 |
| Total | 2484 | 1065 | 3549 |

Table 6: Outstanding civil bills with COR

| | County court judge | District judge | Total |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Antrim | 123 | 42 | 165 |
| Ards | 149 | 57 | 206 |
| Armagh and South Down | 126 | 53 | 179 |
| Belfast | 296 | 145 | 441 |
| Craigavon | 121 | 85 | 206 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 126 | 74 | 200 |
| Londonderry | 107 | 57 | 164 |
| Total | 1048 | 513 | 1561 |

Table 7: Time intervals in weeks for civil bill cases

| | | Issue to disposal |
|------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Case | Antrim | 42 |
| | Ards | 37 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 46 |
| | Belfast | 41 |
| | Craigavon | 45 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 44 |
| | Londonderry | 60 |
| | Total | 42 |

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

Table 8: Time intervals in weeks for civil bill applications

| | | Issue to disposal |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Application | Antrim | 5 |
| | Ards | 9 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 5 |
| | Belfast | 6 |
| | Craigavon | 8 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 7 |
| | Londonderry | 13 |
| | Total | 7 |

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

Equity

Table 9: Equity cases and applications received

| Case | Antrim | 6 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | Ards | 7 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 7 |
| | Belfast | 25 |
| | Craigavon | 5 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 11 |
| | Londonderry | 7 |
| | Total | 68 |
| | Application | Antrim |
| Ards | | 9 |
| Armagh and South Down | | 2 |
| Belfast | | 5 |
| Craigavon | | 1 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | | 6 |
| Londonderry | | 4 |
| Total | | 29 |

Table 10: Equity cases and applications disposed

| | | Court result | Non court disposals | Total |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Case | Antrim | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| | Ards | 9 | . | 9 |
| | Armagh and South Down | . | 1 | 1 |
| | Belfast | 7 | . | 7 |
| | Craigavon | 2 | . | 2 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 20 | . | 20 |
| | Londonderry | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| | Total | 52 | 3 | 55 |
| Application | Antrim | 1 | . | 1 |
| | Ards | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| | Armagh and South Down | . | 1 | 1 |
| | Belfast | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| | Londonderry | 3 | . | 3 |
| | Total | 18 | 6 | 24 |

Table 11: Outstanding equity cases

| Case | Antrim | 53 |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----|
| | Ards | 62 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 55 |
| | Belfast | 121 |
| | Craigavon | 37 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 65 |
| | Londonderry | 47 |
| Total | | 440 |

Table 12: Time intervals in weeks

| | | Issue to disposal |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Case | Antrim | 47 |
| | Ards | 38 |
| | Belfast | 32 |
| | Craigavon | 86 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 92 |
| | Londonderry | 37 |
| | Total | 62 |
| Application | Antrim | 22 |
| | Ards | 3 |
| | Belfast | 10 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 35 |
| | Londonderry | 7 |
| | Total | 14 |

Ejectment

Table 13: Ejectment cases received

| Case | Antrim | 27 |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | Ards | 44 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 13 |
| | Belfast | 127 |
| | Craigavon | 33 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 5 |
| | Londonderry | 10 |
| | Total | 259 |

Table 14: Ejectment cases disposed

| | | Court result | Non court disposals | Total |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------|
| Case | Antrim | 19 | . | 19 |
| | Ards | 67 | . | 67 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 2 | . | 2 |
| | Belfast | 35 | 3 | 38 |
| | Craigavon | 19 | . | 19 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 5 | . | 5 |
| | Londonderry | 3 | . | 3 |
| | Total | 150 | 3 | 153 |

Table 15: Outstanding ejectment cases with NID

| Case | Antrim | 5 |
|--------------|-----------------------|----|
| | Ards | 8 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 3 |
| | Belfast | 13 |
| | Craigavon | 5 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 6 |
| | Londonderry | 5 |
| Total | 45 | |

Table 16: Time intervals in weeks

| | | Issue to disposal |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Case | Antrim | 12 |
| | Ards | 18 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 30 |
| | Belfast | 17 |
| | Craigavon | 23 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 70 |
| | Londonderry | 10 |
| | Total | 19 |

Excludes default judgements, non-court disposals and office disposals

Small Claims

Table 17: Number of small claims cases and applications received

| Case | Antrim | 65 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | Ards | 49 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 34 |
| | Belfast | 3093 |
| | Craigavon | 43 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 38 |
| | Londonderry | 34 |
| | Total | 3356 |
| | Application | Antrim |
| Ards | | 16 |
| Armagh and South Down | | 1 |
| Belfast | | 19 |
| Craigavon | | 9 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | | 5 |
| Londonderry | | 6 |
| Total | | 58 |

Table 18: Number of small claims cases with NODs received

| Case | Antrim | 65 |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----|
| | Ards | 56 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 55 |
| | Belfast | 149 |
| | Craigavon | 47 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 48 |
| | Londonderry | 44 |
| Total | 464 | |

Table 19: Number of small claims cases and applications disposed

| | | Court disposal | Non court disposal | Office disposal | Default judgement | Total |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Case | Antrim | 32 | 1 | 7 | . | 40 |
| | Ards | 38 | . | 7 | 11 | 56 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 21 | . | 4 | 2 | 27 |
| | Belfast | 94 | 11 | 699 | 1540 | 2344 |
| | Craigavon | 23 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 38 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 27 | . | 4 | 5 | 36 |
| | Londonderry | 25 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 34 |
| | Total | 260 | 16 | 734 | 1565 | 2575 |
| Application | Antrim | 3 | . | . | . | 3 |
| | Ards | 6 | . | . | . | 6 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 2 | . | . | . | 2 |
| | Belfast | 9 | . | . | . | 9 |
| | Craigavon | 4 | 1 | . | . | 5 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 3 | . | . | . | 3 |
| | Londonderry | 2 | . | . | . | 2 |
| | Total | 29 | 1 | . | . | 30 |

Table 20: Outstanding small claims with NOD

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| | |
| Antrim | 124 |
| Ards | 168 |
| Armagh and South Down | 98 |
| Belfast | 269 |
| Craigavon | 125 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 110 |
| Londonderry | 97 |
| Total | 991 |

Table 21: Time intervals in weeks

| | | Issue to disposal |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Case | Antrim | 19 |
| | Ards | 21 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 19 |
| | Belfast | 20 |
| | Craigavon | 26 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 18 |
| | Londonderry | 20 |
| | Total | 20 |
| Application | Antrim | 11 |
| | Ards | 5 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 10 |
| | Belfast | 5 |
| | Craigavon | 3 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 12 |
| | Londonderry | 10 |
| | Total | 7 |

Excludes default judgements, non-court disposals and office disposals

Criminal Damage

Table 22: Number of criminal damage cases and applications received

| Case | Armagh and South Down | 1 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| | Belfast | 4 |
| | Londonderry | 2 |
| | Total | 7 |
| Application | Belfast | 1 |
| | Londonderry | 1 |
| | Total | 2 |

Table 23: Number of criminal damage cases and applications disposed

| | | Court disposal | Non court disposal | Total |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| Case | Belfast | 5 | . | 5 |
| | Total | 5 | . | 5 |
| Application | Londonderry | . | 1 | 1 |
| | Total | . | 1 | 1 |

Table 24: Outstanding criminal damage cases

| Antrim | 1 |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Ards | 2 |
| Armagh and South Down | 8 |
| Belfast | 98 |
| Craigavon | 18 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 13 |
| Londonderry | 17 |
| Total | 157 |

Table 25: Time intervals in weeks

| | | Issue to disposal |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Case | Belfast | 62 |
| | Total | 62 |
| Application | Londonderry | 154 |
| | Total | 154 |

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

Divorces

Table 26: Divorce Petitions by type of decree

| | 2 years with consent | 5 years separation | Adultery | Unreasonable behaviour | Combination of grounds/other | Total |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Antrim | 33 | 30 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 70 |
| Ards | 24 | 21 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 49 |
| Armagh and South Down | 23 | 15 | 1 | . | 3 | 42 |
| Belfast | 33 | 20 | 2 | 2 | . | 57 |
| Craigavon | 30 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 47 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 15 | 12 | . | 3 | 5 | 35 |
| Londonderry | 19 | 10 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 43 |
| Total | 177 | 119 | 8 | 21 | 18 | 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 | 36 | 29 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 78 |
| Ards | 32 | 11 | 1 | 1 | . | 45 |
| Armagh and South Down | 21 | 10 | . | 3 | 1 | 35 |
| Belfast | 40 | 30 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 82 |
| Craigavon | 28 | 12 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 48 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 23 | 14 | . | 7 | 2 | 46 |
| Londonderry | 23 | 24 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 59 |
| Total | 203 | 130 | 9 | 36 | 15 | 393 |

Table 28: Matrimonial applications received

| | Ancillary relief | Matrimonial application to a master | Other | Total |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Antrim | 6 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Ards | 1 | . | 2 | 3 |
| Armagh and South Down | 5 | . | 1 | 6 |
| Belfast | . | . | 18 | 18 |
| Craigavon | 5 | . | . | 5 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 8 | . | 1 | 9 |
| Londonderry | 12 | 2 | 2 | 16 |
| Total | 37 | 3 | 25 | 65 |

Table 29: Matrimonial applications disposed

| | Ancillary relief | Matrimonial application to a master | Other | Total |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Antrim | 6 | 3 | 2 | 11 |
| Ards | 3 | . | . | 3 |
| Armagh and South Down | 16 | 1 | 1 | 18 |
| Belfast | 7 | . | . | 7 |
| Craigavon | 5 | . | . | 5 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 9 | 1 | . | 10 |
| Londonderry | 16 | 3 | . | 19 |
| Total | 62 | 8 | 3 | 73 |

Table 30: Time intervals in weeks for divorce petitions

| | Issue to date decree granted | Date decree granted to date absolute issued |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Antrim | 29 | 8 |
| Ards | 35 | 7 |
| Armagh and South Down | 36 | 9 |
| Belfast | 29 | 9 |
| Craigavon | 39 | 7 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 35 | 10 |
| Londonderry | 37 | 6 |
| Total | 34 | 8 |

Table 31: Time intervals in weeks for divorce applications

| | Issue to disposal |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Antrim | 52 |
| Ards | 81 |
| Armagh and South Down | 32 |
| Belfast | 32 |
| Craigavon | 25 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 32 |
| Londonderry | 57 |
| Total | 43 |

Excludes non-court disposals

Licences

Table 32: Licences received and disposed

| | Licence applications received | Licence applications dealt with |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Antrim | 8 | 7 |
| Ards | 5 | 3 |
| Armagh and South Down | 13 | 1 |
| Belfast | 3 | 14 |
| Craigavon | 10 | 7 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 2 | 2 |
| Londonderry | 5 | 0 |
| Total | 46 | 34 |

County court judge and district judge 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 | | | |
| Antrim | 64 | 3:18:53 | 212:09:14 | 98:34:00 | 105:05:14 | 8:30:00 |
| Ards | 60 | 2:58:13 | 178:13:00 | 44:02:00 | 119:31:00 | 14:40:00 |
| Armagh and South Down | 55 | 2:52:07 | 157:47:00 | 72:59:00 | 64:44:00 | 20:04:00 |
| Belfast | 242 | 2:19:10 | 561:19:27 | 237:33:00 | 231:28:27 | 92:18:00 |
| Craigavon | 49 | 2:26:08 | 119:21:14 | 36:43:00 | 55:59:14 | 26:39:00 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 48 | 3:17:58 | 158:23:00 | 56:05:00 | 82:14:00 | 20:04:00 |
| Londonderry | 55 | 3:25:17 | 188:11:24 | 144:38:24 | 31:10:00 | 12:23:00 |
| Total | 573 | 2:44:57 | 1575:24:19 | 690:34:24 | 690:11:55 | 194:38:00 |

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