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## Northern Ireland Court Service

### County Court Bulletin

**October - December 2008**  
(PROVISIONAL FIGURES)

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Northern Ireland  
Statistics &  
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Agency

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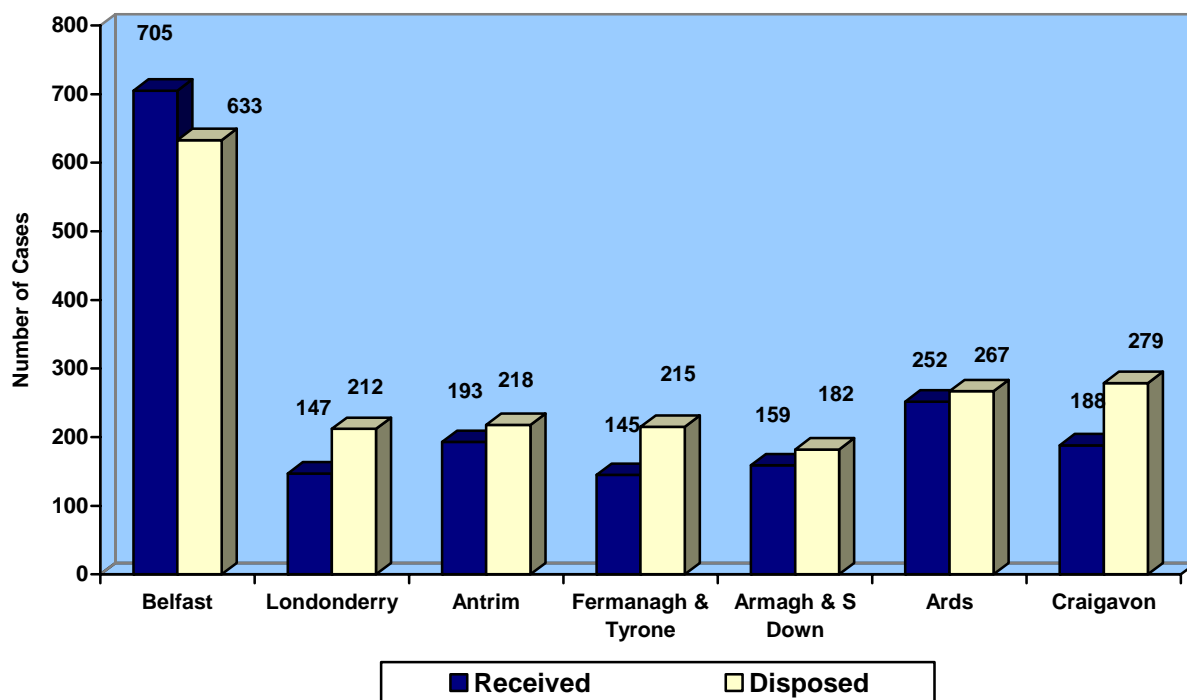
**County court figures on Children’s Order cases, magistrate’s appeals and county court appeals appear in other bulletins.**

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

## Summary

- There were 1,789 civil bills with NID's received during the quarter, and 2,822 Civil Bills disposed of, with 1,435 civil bills disposed of in court and 1387 disposed of in the office.
- During the period there were 74 Equity cases received and 74 cases dealt with.
- There were 211 ejectment cases received and 281 ejectment cases disposed of during the reporting period.
- There were 3,637 small claims received and 2,779 disposed of during the period, of which 456 were disposed of in court and 1,524 were default judgments.
- In total, 412 Decrees Nisi were granted during the quarter, with 50% of these giving a reason of '2 years with consent'. There were 419 decrees absolute granted in the county court with one fifth being granted in Belfast division (20%).
- There were 1,091 sitting days during the quarter with 52% of time being spent on criminal business.

**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**

<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	203
	<b>Ards</b>	271
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	134
	<b>Belfast</b>	2331
	<b>Craigavon</b>	182
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	160
	<b>Londonderry</b>	137
	<b>Total</b>	3418
	<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>
<b>Ards</b>		136
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>		110
<b>Belfast</b>		663
<b>Craigavon</b>		137
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>		83
<b>Londonderry</b>		104
<b>Total</b>		1332

**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>	135	58	193
<b>Ards</b>	179	73	252
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	94	65	159
<b>Belfast</b>	523	182	705
<b>Craigavon</b>	125	63	188
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	107	38	145
<b>Londonderry</b>	88	59	147
<b>Total</b>	1251	538	1789

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
<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	109	48	36	3	22	218
	<b>Ards</b>	108	82	57	1	19	267
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	82	51	34	1	14	182
	<b>Belfast</b>	223	210	109	6	85	633
	<b>Civil Processing Centre</b>			39	740	37	816
	<b>Craigavon</b>	83	106	65	1	24	279
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	99	63	35	2	16	215
	<b>Londonderry</b>	100	71	20	1	20	212
	<b>Total</b>	804	631	395	755	237	2822
<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	21	11	27			59
	<b>Ards</b>	11	31	34			76
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	20	16	24			60
	<b>Belfast</b>	90	22	128			240
	<b>Civil Processing Centre</b>			7			7
	<b>Craigavon</b>	19	19	21			59
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	24	16	13			53
	<b>Londonderry</b>	30	27	22			79
	<b>Total</b>	215	142	276			633

**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	31	17	41	32	36	157
	Ards	52	17	55	43	23	190
	Armagh and South Down	18	23	35	29	28	133
	Belfast	164	40	103	75	51	433
	Craigavon	26	25	68	33	37	189
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	31	14	51	25	41	162
	Londonderry	50	16	40	32	33	171
	<b>Total</b>	372	152	393	269	249	1435

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	298	116	414
Ards	241	134	375
Armagh and South Down	231	120	351
Belfast	1021	347	1368
Craigavon	283	127	410
Fermanagh and Tyrone	280	94	374
Londonderry	214	139	353
<b>Total</b>	2568	1077	3645

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

	County court judge	District judge	Total
Antrim	90	32	122
Ards	166	62	228
Armagh and South Down	89	54	143
Belfast	361	115	476
Craigavon	100	49	149
Fermanagh and Tyrone	73	60	133
Londonderry	69	37	106
<b>Total</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>1357</b>

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

		Issue to disposal
Case	Antrim	48
	Ards	37
	Armagh and South Down	43
	Belfast	38
	Craigavon	44
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	50
	Londonderry	58
	<b>Total</b>	<b>44</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>	3
	<b>Ards</b>	3
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	5
	<b>Belfast</b>	7
	<b>Craigavon</b>	6
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	5
	<b>Londonderry</b>	5
	<b>Total</b>	6

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

## Equity

Table 9: Equity cases and applications received

<b>Case</b>	Antrim	10
	Ards	12
	Armagh and South Down	7
	Belfast	14
	Craigavon	9
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	17
	Londonderry	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Application</b>	Antrim	1
	Ards	5
	Armagh and South Down	4
	Belfast	6
	Craigavon	4
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	9
	Londonderry	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>

Table 10: Equity cases and applications disposed

		Court result	Non court disposals	Total
Case	Antrim	11	1	12
	Ards	5		5
	Armagh and South Down	7	2	9
	Belfast	16	3	19
	Craigavon	6		6
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	11		11
	Londonderry	11	1	12
	<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>74</b>
Application	Antrim	2		2
	Ards	4	1	5
	Armagh and South Down	1	1	2
	Belfast	3		3
	Craigavon	3		3
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	7		7
	Londonderry	5	2	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>

Table 11: Outstanding equity cases

Case	Antrim	46
	Ards	56
	Armagh and South Down	49
	Belfast	106
	Craigavon	41
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	62
	Londonderry	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>	

Table 12: Time intervals in weeks

		Issue to disposal
Case	Antrim	33
	Ards	43
	Armagh and South Down	47
	Belfast	43
	Craigavon	23
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	62
	Londonderry	67
	Total	47
Application	Antrim	7
	Ards	7
	Armagh and South Down	0
	Belfast	6
	Craigavon	22
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	4
	Londonderry	3
	Total	7

## Ejectment

**Table 13: Ejectment cases received**

<b>Case</b>	Antrim	26
	Ards	34
	Armagh and South Down	7
	Belfast	101
	Craigavon	31
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	6
	Londonderry	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>

**Table 14: Ejectment cases disposed**

		Court result	Non court disposals	Total
<b>Case</b>	Antrim	36		36
	Ards	56	1	57
	Armagh and South Down	14		14
	Belfast	134		134
	Craigavon	21		21
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	11		11
	Londonderry	5	3	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>281</b>

**Table 15: Outstanding ejectment cases with  
NID**

<b>Case</b>	Antrim	5
	Ards	10
	Armagh and South Down	5
	Belfast	17
	Craigavon	6
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	5
	Londonderry	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	

**Table 16: Time intervals in weeks**

		<b>Issue to disposal</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	10
	<b>Ards</b>	11
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	13
	<b>Belfast</b>	17
	<b>Craigavon</b>	15
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	28
	<b>Londonderry</b>	15
	<b>Total</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>	66
	<b>Ards</b>	87
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	52
	<b>Belfast</b>	3276
	<b>Craigavon</b>	57
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	60
	<b>Londonderry</b>	39
	<b>Total</b>	3637
<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	6
	<b>Ards</b>	7
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	2
	<b>Belfast</b>	35
	<b>Craigavon</b>	6
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	10
	<b>Londonderry</b>	4
	<b>Total</b>	70

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

<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	63
	<b>Ards</b>	97
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	47
	<b>Belfast</b>	167
	<b>Craigavon</b>	57
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	60
	<b>Londonderry</b>	42
<b>Total</b>	533	

Table 19: Number of small claims cases and applications disposed

		Court disposal	Non court disposal	Office disposal	Default judgement	Total
Case	Antrim	66	3	2		71
	Ards	71	1	23	5	100
	Armagh and South Down	51		3	1	55
	Belfast	127	27	711	1513	2378
	Craigavon	59	2	15		76
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	42		5	4	51
	Londonderry	40		7	1	48
	Total	456	33	766	1524	2779
Application	Antrim	4	1			5
	Ards	7	1			8
	Belfast	30	1			31
	Craigavon	3				3
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	1				1
	Londonderry	3	2			5
	Total	48	5			53

Table 20: Outstanding small claims with NOD

Antrim	120
Ards	192
Armagh and South Down	92
Belfast	314
Craigavon	117
Fermanagh and Tyrone	126
Londonderry	94
Total	1055

Table 21: Time intervals in weeks

		Issue to disposal
<b>Case</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	17
	<b>Ards</b>	23
	<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	20
	<b>Belfast</b>	19
	<b>Craigavon</b>	25
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	20
	<b>Londonderry</b>	15
	<b>Total</b>	20
<b>Application</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	4
	<b>Ards</b>	12
	<b>Belfast</b>	7
	<b>Craigavon</b>	9
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	15
	<b>Londonderry</b>	15
	<b>Total</b>	8

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>Armagh and South Down</b>	1
	<b>Belfast</b>	16
	<b>Craigavon</b>	2
	<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	1
	<b>Total</b>	20

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

		<b>Court disposal</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>Belfast</b>	1	1
	<b>Total</b>	1	1

**Table 24: Outstanding criminal damage cases**

<b>Antrim</b>	1
<b>Ards</b>	2
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	9
<b>Belfast</b>	102
<b>Craigavon</b>	18
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	12
<b>Londonderry</b>	14
<b>Total</b>	158

**Table 25: Time intervals in weeks**

		<b>Issue to disposal</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>Belfast</b>	0
	<b>Total</b>	0

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	48	31		8	6	93
Ards	17	15	2		1	35
Armagh and South Down	15	8	1	2	4	30
Belfast	46	36	1	3		86
Craigavon	40	15	2	4	3	64
Fermanagh and Tyrone	15	17	1	11	4	48
Londonderry	26	17		11	2	56
<b>Total</b>	207	139	7	39	20	412

**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	34	30		7	2	73
Ards	28	24	1	2	4	59
Armagh and South Down	26	13				39
Belfast	47	30	1	4	2	84
Craigavon	44	14	1	2	2	63
Fermanagh and Tyrone	13	16		5	6	40
Londonderry	28	17	1	11	4	61
<b>Total</b>	220	144	4	31	20	419

**Table 28: Matrimonial applications received**

	Combination of grounds/other	Ancillary relief	Matrimonial application to a master	Other	Total
Antrim		8		1	9
Ards		3		1	4
Armagh and South Down		20			20
Belfast	1		1	25	27
Craigavon		6		2	8
Fermanagh and Tyrone		8		2	10
Londonderry		19		4	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>101</b>

**Table 29: Matrimonial applications disposed**

	Ancillary relief	Matrimonial application to a master	Other	Total
Antrim	8			8
Ards	3		3	6
Armagh and South Down	1			1
Belfast	2		1	3
Craigavon	5		1	6
Fermanagh and Tyrone	3		1	4
Londonderry	12	2	1	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>43</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>	24	8
<b>Ards</b>	20	9
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	39	9
<b>Belfast</b>	32	10
<b>Craigavon</b>	25	8
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	24	9
<b>Londonderry</b>	39	9
<b>Total</b>	29	9

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

	<b>Issue to disposal</b>
<b>Antrim</b>	48
<b>Ards</b>	25
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	2
<b>Belfast</b>	30
<b>Craigavon</b>	32
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	21
<b>Londonderry</b>	66
<b>Total</b>	43

Excludes non-court disposals

## Licences

Table 32: Licences received and disposed

	Licenses Received	Licences Disposed
Antrim	43	42
Ards	36	32
Armagh and South Down	35	40
Belfast	67	65
Craigavon	23	16
Fermanagh and Tyrone	90	49
Londonderry	36	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>280</b>

## County Court and District Judge Sitting Days

**Table 33: County Court Judge and District Judge 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	2:44:23	369:53:14	215:17:00	136:59:14	17:37:00
<b>Ards</b>	109	2:17:02	248:57:00	116:58:00	127:09:00	4:50:00
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	97	2:42:37	262:54:00	104:56:00	149:07:00	8:51:00
<b>Belfast</b>	366	2:46:58	1018:33:00	550:36:00	300:43:00	167:14:00
<b>Craigavon</b>	123	3:21:49	413:44:00	196:30:00	125:32:00	91:42:00
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	131	2:55:28	383:08:00	188:42:00	160:25:00	34:01:00
<b>Londonderry</b>	130	3:23:04	439:59:00	248:34:00	138:45:00	52:40:00
<b>Total</b>	1091	2:52:31	3137:08:14	1621:33:00	1138:40:14	376:55:00

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