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Northern Ireland Court Service

Crown Court Bulletin

April – June 2008
(PROVISIONAL FIGURES)



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Important Notes:

Figures are run from a live database and may change due to late returns and further validations.

The number of defendants is based on the number of defendants disposed of from April to June 2008.

Date of disposal is based on the date of sentencing, date of acquittal or date a bill of indictment is not proceeded with.

Waiting times do not exclude recess.

Summary

- **Cases received and dealt with:**

There were 367 Crown cases received during April to June 2008. This is a 5% increase on the 350 received during April to June 2007. The cases dealt with have increased by 22% from 366 in April to June 2007, to 448 in 2008.

- **Defendants received and dealt with:**

467 defendants were received in Crown Court during April to June 2008 (a 3% decrease since the same period last year). 549 defendants were dealt with during April to June 2008 (an increase of 16% against the same period last year)

- **Waiting times:**

The average time from committal to hearing for Apr-Jun 2008 was 127 days, an increase of 12% against the same period in 2007. The average time from conviction to disposal was 39 days, a decrease of 5% on the same period in 2007.

- **Disposals:**

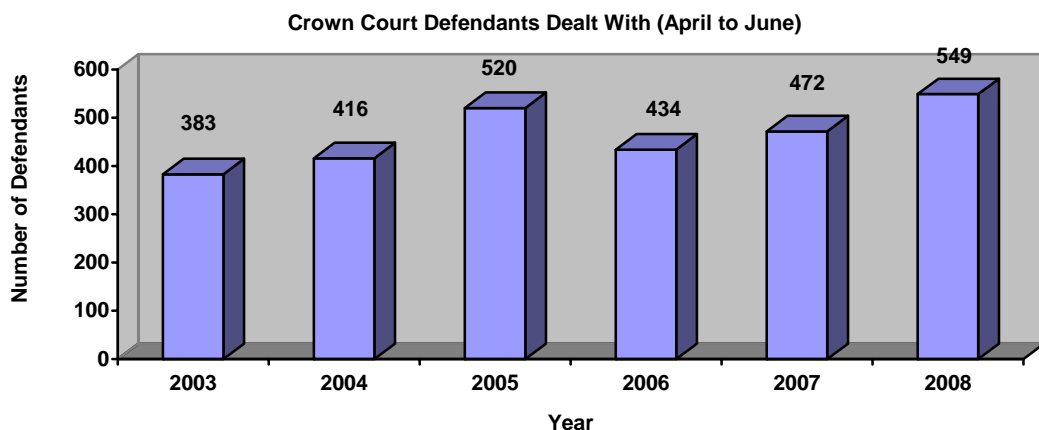
County Court Judges disposed of 91% of defendants (498), and 15% of defendants were charged solely with offences against the person. 38% of defendants had a combination of charges.

- **Pleas and findings:**

Of the 549 defendants disposed, 47% pleaded guilty to all charges and were therefore found guilty on all charges.

- **Crown Court sittings:**

In total there were 886 Crown court sittings for Apr – Jun 2008 in comparison to 729 for Apr-Jun 2007 (a increase of 22%), with a total time of 2089 hours sat compared to 1861 hours sat during the same period last year. The average time per sitting in Apr - Jun 2008 was 2hr 22m compared to 2hr 33m for Apr - Jun 2007¹.



¹ Please note that Easter recess took place in Mar 2008, as opposed to April in 2007

Table 1 - Crown Court cases received

| Belfast | 117 |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Londonderry | 37 |
| Antrim | 59 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 51 |
| Armagh and South Down | 30 |
| Ards | 34 |
| Craigavon | 39 |
| Total | 367 |

Table 2 - Crown Court cases disposed

| Belfast | 139 |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Londonderry | 41 |
| Antrim | 59 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 48 |
| Armagh and South Down | 56 |
| Ards | 60 |
| Craigavon | 45 |
| Total | 448 |

Table 3 - Crown Court defendants received

| Belfast | 150 |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Londonderry | 47 |
| Antrim | 71 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 66 |
| Armagh and South Down | 45 |
| Ards | 40 |
| Craigavon | 48 |
| Total | 467 |

Table 4 - Crown Court defendants disposed

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| | |
| Belfast | 173 |
| Londonderry | 57 |
| Antrim | 68 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 59 |
| Armagh and South Down | 66 |
| Ards | 72 |
| Craigavon | 54 |
| Total | 549 |

Table 5 - Waiting times in days

| | Committal to hearing - days | Conviction to disposal - days | Total defendants disposed |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Belfast | 155 | 48 | 155 |
| Londonderry | 144 | 56 | 56 |
| Antrim | 116 | 40 | 62 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 58 | 32 | 54 |
| Armagh and South Down | 147 | 25 | 65 |
| Ards | 103 | 27 | 69 |
| Craigavon | 115 | 36 | 52 |
| Total | 127 | 39 | 513 |

[1] Excludes defendants who had a bench warrant or deferred sentence

Table 6 - Crown Court defendants disposed by judge type

| | Judicial Level | | Total |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | County Court Judge | High Court Judge | |
| Belfast | 154 | 19 | 173 |
| Londonderry | 43 | 14 | 57 |
| Antrim | 65 | 3 | 68 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 57 | 2 | 59 |
| Armagh and South Down | 61 | 5 | 66 |
| Ards | 64 | 8 | 72 |
| Craigavon | 54 | - | 54 |
| Total | 498 | 51 | 549 |

Table 7 - Crown Court defendants disposed by charge type

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| | |
| All Offences Against the Person | 85 |
| All Sexual Offences | 45 |
| All Burglary Offences | 13 |
| All Robbery Offences | 14 |
| All Theft Offences | 27 |
| All Fraud and Forgery Offences | 19 |
| All Criminal Damage Offences | 9 |
| All Offences Against the State | 10 |
| All Other Offences | 25 |
| All Drug Offences | 55 |
| All Motoring Offences | 21 |
| All Non-Police Offences | 19 |
| Combination of charges | 207 |
| Total | 549 |

Table 8 - Outcome of Crown Court Defendants

| | Plea of guilty on all charges | Plea of not guilty on at least one charge - found guilty on at least one charge | Plea not guilty - acquitted on all charges | All charges withdrawn | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|------------|
| Belfast | 73 | 70 | 30 | - | 173 |
| Londonderry | 28 | 26 | 3 | - | 57 |
| Antrim | 36 | 26 | 5 | 1 | 68 |
| Fermanagh and Tyrone | 21 | 26 | 12 | - | 59 |
| Armagh and South Down | 33 | 28 | 5 | - | 66 |
| Ards | 41 | 23 | 7 | 1 | 72 |
| Craigavon | 24 | 26 | 4 | - | 54 |
| Total | 256 | 225 | 66 | 2 | 549 |

Table 9 - Crown Court sitting times

| | | Number of sittings | Total time |
|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | Belfast | 391 | 856:47:00 |
| | Londonderry | 87 | 178:52:24 |
| | Antrim | 113 | 316:42:00 |
| | Fermanagh and Tyrone | 48 | 122:49:00 |
| | Armagh and South Down | 78 | 191:31:24 |
| | Ards | 97 | 194:52:00 |
| | Craigavon | 72 | 227:53:00 |
| Total | | 886 | 2089:26:48 |