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## **Northern Ireland Court Service**

### **Crown Court Bulletin**

**April - June 2009**  
**(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 2009.

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 364 Crown cases received during April to June 2009. This is a 1% decrease on the 367 received during April to June 2008. The cases dealt with have decreased by 29% from 448 in April to June 2008, to 317 in 2009.

- **Defendants received and dealt with:**

460 defendants were received in Crown Court during April to June 2009 (a 1% decrease on the same period last year). 420 defendants were dealt with during April to June 2009 (a decrease of 23% against the same period last year)

- **Waiting times:**

The average time from committal to hearing for April to June 2009 was 111 days, a decrease of 13% against the same period in 2008. The average time from conviction to disposal was 36 days, a decrease of 8% against the same period in 2008.

- **Disposals:**

County Court Judges disposed of 95% of defendants (398), and 14% of defendants were charged solely with offences against the person. 39% of defendants had a combination of charges.

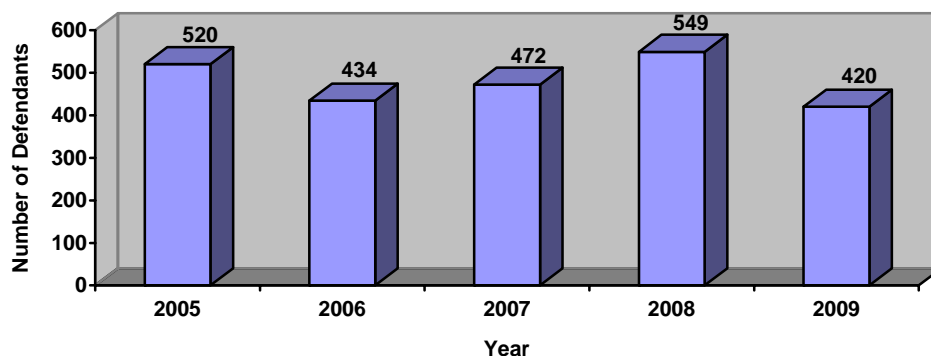
- **Pleas and findings:**

Of the 420 defendants disposed, 39% pleaded guilty to all charges and were therefore found guilty on all charges.

- **Crown Court sittings:**

In total there were 633 Crown court sittings for April to June 2009 in comparison to 886 for April to June 2008 (a decrease of 29%), with a total time of 1704 hours sat compared to 2089 hours sat during the same period last year.  
(Please note that Easter recess took place in April in 2009, as opposed to March 2008).

**Crown Court Defendants Dealt With (April to June)**



**Table 1 - Crown Court cases received**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	137
<b>Londonderry</b>	31
<b>Antrim</b>	53
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	52
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	19
<b>Ards</b>	39
<b>Craigavon</b>	33
<b>Total</b>	364

**Table 2 - Crown Court cases disposed**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	102
<b>Londonderry</b>	40
<b>Antrim</b>	54
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	43
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	27
<b>Ards</b>	25
<b>Craigavon</b>	26
<b>Total</b>	317

**Table 3 - Crown Court defendants received**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	168
<b>Londonderry</b>	41
<b>Antrim</b>	73
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	70
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	27
<b>Ards</b>	42
<b>Craigavon</b>	39
<b>Total</b>	460

**Table 4 - Crown Court defendants disposed**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	141
<b>Londonderry</b>	47
<b>Antrim</b>	73
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	55
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	43
<b>Ards</b>	29
<b>Craigavon</b>	32
<b>Total</b>	420

**Table 5 - Waiting times in days**

	<b>Committal to hearing - days</b>	<b>Conviction to disposal - days</b>	<b>Total defendants disposed</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	140	49	135
<b>Londonderry</b>	61	33	45
<b>Antrim</b>	123	34	66
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	69	21	52
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	104	26	43
<b>Ards</b>	75	32	29
<b>Craigavon</b>	144	30	31
<b>Total</b>	111	36	401

[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	
<b>Belfast</b>	132	9	141
<b>Londonderry</b>	45	2	47
<b>Antrim</b>	66	7	73
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	55	.	55
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	40	3	43
<b>Ards</b>	29	.	29
<b>Craigavon</b>	31	1	32
<b>Total</b>	398	22	420

**Table 7 - Crown Court defendants disposed by charge type**

<b>All Offences Against the Person</b>	58
<b>All Sexual Offences</b>	31
<b>All Burglary Offences</b>	15
<b>All Robbery Offences</b>	10
<b>All Theft Offences</b>	16
<b>All Fraud and Forgery Offences</b>	16
<b>All Criminal Damage Offences</b>	7
<b>All Offences Against the State</b>	4
<b>All Other Offences</b>	22
<b>All Drug Offences</b>	62
<b>All Motoring Offences</b>	11
<b>All Non-Police Offences</b>	3
<b>Combination of charges</b>	165
<b>Total</b>	420

**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
<b>Belfast</b>	52	68	21	-	141
<b>Londonderry</b>	18	22	7	-	47
<b>Antrim</b>	30	39	4	-	73
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	18	29	6	2	55
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	18	22	3	-	43
<b>Ards</b>	18	6	5	-	29
<b>Craigavon</b>	11	15	6	-	32
<b>Total</b>	165	201	52	2	420

**Table 9 - Crown Court sitting times**

	Number of sittings	Total time
<b>Belfast</b>	249	748:23:00
<b>Londonderry</b>	49	107:43:00
<b>Antrim</b>	116	356:21:00
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	50	116:50:00
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	67	202:43:00
<b>Ards</b>	50	51:15:24
<b>Craigavon</b>	52	121:07:00
<b>Total</b>	633	1704:22:24