

Crown Court Bulletin

January – March 2011

serving the community through the administration of justice

Document Details

	Provisional Figures
Date issued:	13 May 2011
Document Authors:	Statistics & Research

Contents

Summary

Figure 1	Crown Court cases dealt with
Table 1	Crown Court cases received
Table 2	Crown Court cases disposed
Table 3	Crown Court defendants received
Table 4	Crown Court defendants disposed
Table 5	Average waiting times in days
Table 6	Crown Court defendants disposed by judge type
Table 7	Crown Court defendants disposed by charge type
Table 8	Outcome of Crown Court defendants
Table 9	Crown Court sitting times

Important Notes:

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

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.

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.

Summary

Cases received and dealt with:

There were 414 Crown cases received during January to March 2011. This was a 29% increase on the 322 received during January to March 2010. The cases dealt with have decreased by 6% from 393 in January to March 2011, to 415 for the same period in 2011 (Figure 1).

Defendants received and dealt with:

557 defendants were received in Crown Court during January to March 2011 (a 36% increase since the same period last year, when 409 defendants were received). 540 defendants were dealt with during January to March 2011 (a 5% increase when compared with 513 defendants dealt with in the same period last year).

Waiting times:

The average time from committal to hearing for January to March 2011 was 126 days, compared with 117 days for the same period in 2010. The average time from conviction to disposal was 52 days, compared with 45 days for the equivalent period in 2010.

Disposals:

County Court Judges disposed of 99% of defendants (532). 17% of defendants were charged solely with offences against the person while 33% of defendants had a combination of charges.

Pleas and findings:

Of the 540 defendants disposed, 242 (45%) pleaded guilty to all charges.

Crown Court sittings:

In total there were 826 Crown court sittings for January to March 2011 compared with 773 for January to March 2010 (an increase of 7%), with a total time of 2671 hours sat compared with 2142 hours sat during the same period last year.

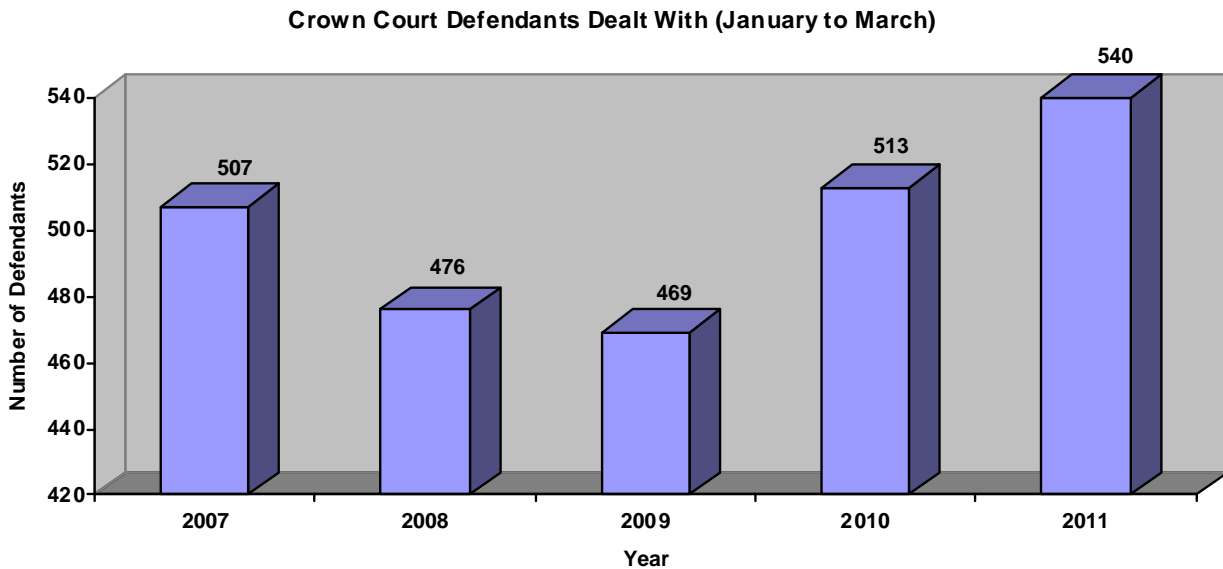


Table 1- Crown Court cases received

	Total
Belfast	142
Londonderry	31
Antrim	39
Fermanagh and Tyrone	60
Armagh and South Down	40
Ards	49
Craigavon	53
Total	414

Table 2 - Crown Court cases disposed

	Total
Belfast	138
Londonderry	31
Antrim	64
Fermanagh and Tyrone	51
Armagh and South Down	45
Ards	47
Craigavon	39
Total	415

Table 3 - Crown Court defendants received

	Total
Belfast	209
Londonderry	35
Antrim	43
Fermanagh and Tyrone	72
Armagh and South Down	57
Ards	71
Craigavon	70
Total	557

Table 4 - Crown Court defendants disposed

	Total
Belfast	178
Londonderry	44
Antrim	83
Fermanagh and Tyrone	64
Armagh and South Down	63
Ards	61
Craigavon	47
Total	540

Table 5 - Waiting times in days

	Committal to hearing - days	Conviction to disposal - days	Total defendants disposed
Belfast	149	58	167
Londonderry	66	77	42
Antrim	120	55	82
Fermanagh and Tyrone	94	33	63
Armagh and South Down	151	39	63
Ards	129	50	60
Craigavon	116	50	45
Total	126	52	522

[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	173	5	178
Londonderry	44		44
Antrim	81	2	83
Fermanagh and Tyrone	64		64
Armagh and South Down	62	1	63
Ards	61		61
Craigavon	47		47
Total	532	8	540

Table 7 - Crown Court defendants disposed by charge type

All Offences Against the Person	91
All Sexual Offences	39
All Burglary Offences	20
All Robbery Offences	11
All Theft Offences	20
All Fraud and Forgery Offences	57
All Criminal Damage Offences	6
All Offences Against the State	21
All Other Offences	18
All Drug Offences	51
All Motoring Offences	25
All Non-Police Offences	4
Combination of charges	177
Total	540

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	82	63	33		178
Londonderry	26	10	7	1	44
Antrim	43	32	8		83
Fermanagh and Tyrone	21	31	12		64
Armagh and South Down	22	27	13	1	63
Ards	28	24	9		61
Craigavon	20	13	14		47
Total	242	200	96	2	540

Table 9 - Crown Court sitting times

	Number of sittings	Total time
Belfast	335	1204:13:24
Londonderry	78	248:50:24
Antrim	90	296:32:00
Fermanagh and Tyrone	82	244:40:00
Armagh and South Down	86	218:04:00
Ards	74	201:43:24
Craigavon	81	257:25:00
Total	826	2671:28:12

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

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

www.courtsni.gov.uk

