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Northern Ireland Court Service

Crown Court Bulletin

January – March 2008
(PROVISIONAL FIGURES)



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Northern Ireland
Statistics &
Research
Agency

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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 January to March 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 343 Crown cases received during January to March 2008. This is a 2% increase on the 336 received during January to March 2007. The cases dealt with have decreased by 10% from 404 in January to March 2007, to 365 in 2008.

- **Defendants received and dealt with:**

429 defendants were received in Crown Court during January to March 2008 (a 0.5% increase since the same period last year). 476 defendants were dealt with during January to March 2008 (a decrease of 6% against the same period last year)

- **Waiting times:**

The average time in days from committal to hearing for Jan-Mar 2008 was 140 days, an increase of 22% against the same period in 2007. The average time from conviction to disposal was 54 days.

- **Disposals:**

County Court Judges disposed of 95% of the defendants (450), and 18% of defendants were charged solely with offences against the person.

- **Pleas and findings:**

Of the 476 defendants disposed, 44% pleaded guilty to all charges and were therefore found guilty on all charges.

- **Crown Court sittings:**

In total there were 676 Crown court sittings for Jan – Mar 2008 in comparison to 830 for Jan-Mar 2007 (a decrease of 19%), with a total time of 1826 hours sat compared to 2270 hours sat during the same period last year. The average time per sitting in Jan-Mar 2008 was 2hr 42min compared to 2hr 44min for Jan-Mar 2007. (Please note that Easter recess took place in March 2008, as opposed to April in 2007).

Crown Court Defendants Dealt With (January to March)

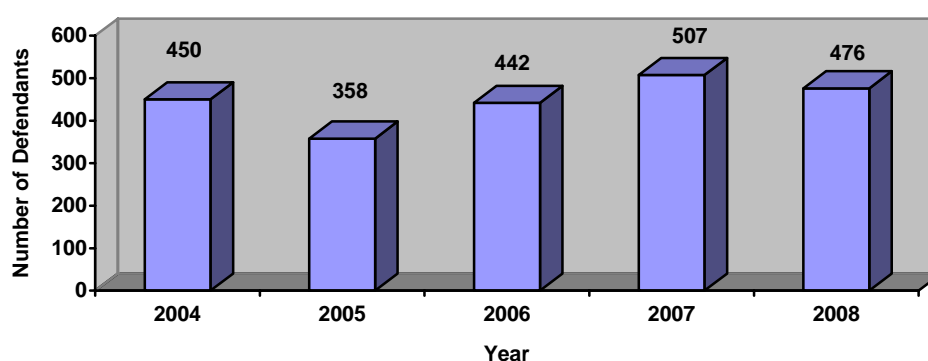


Table 1 - Crown Court cases received

Belfast	120
Londonderry	36
Antrim	28
Fermanagh and Tyrone	45
Armagh and South Down	42
Ards	41
Craigavon	31
Total	343

Table 2 - Crown Court cases disposed

Belfast	136
Londonderry	40
Antrim	45
Fermanagh and Tyrone	49
Armagh and South Down	29
Ards	45
Craigavon	21
Total	365

Table 3 - Crown Court defendants received

Belfast	138
Londonderry	41
Antrim	51
Fermanagh and Tyrone	59
Armagh and South Down	49
Ards	48
Craigavon	43
Total	429

Table 4 - Crown Court defendants disposed

Belfast	189
Londonderry	54
Antrim	58
Fermanagh and Tyrone	58
Armagh and South Down	35
Ards	53
Craigavon	29
Total	476

Table 5 - Average Waiting times in days

	Committal to hearing - days	Conviction to disposal - days	Total defendants disposed
Belfast	196	64	183
Londonderry	68	48	53
Antrim	93	49	58
Fermanagh and Tyrone	82	41	54
Armagh and South Down	139	37	32
Ards	96	54	51
Craigavon	206	48	28
Total	140	54	459

[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	16	189
Londonderry	51	3	54
Antrim	52	6	58
Fermanagh and Tyrone	57	1	58
Armagh and South Down	35	.	35
Ards	53	.	53
Craigavon	29	.	29
Total	450	26	476

Table 7 - Crown Court defendants disposed by charge type

All Offences Against the Person	87
All Sexual Offences	41
All Burglary Offences	23
All Robbery Offences	20
All Theft Offences	18
All Fraud and Forgery Offences	11
All Criminal Damage Offences	16
All Offences Against the State	5
All Other Offences	18
All Drug Offences	48
All Motoring Offences	27
All Non-Police Offences	10
Combination of charges	152
Total	476

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	74	81	33	1	189
Londonderry	24	20	10	.	54
Antrim	28	24	6	.	58
Fermanagh and Tyrone	24	29	5	.	58
Armagh and South Down	10	20	4	1	35
Ards	37	12	4	.	53
Craigavon	14	7	8	.	29
Total	211	193	70	2	476

Table 9 - Crown Court sitting times

		Number of sittings	Total time
	Belfast	260	615:59:00
	Londonderry	75	225:00:48
	Antrim	127	376:30:00
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	48	115:50:00
	Armagh and South Down	60	221:59:24
	Ards	53	116:43:00
	Craigavon	53	154:10:00
Total		676	1826:12:12