

Crown Court Bulletin

July to September 2010

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Document Details

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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.

Summary

Cases received and dealt with:

There were 405 Crown cases received during July to September 2010. This was a 23% increase on the 328 received during July to September 2009. The cases dealt with have decreased by 6% from 152 in July to September 2009, to 143 for the same period in 2010 (Figure 1).

Defendants received and dealt with:

516 defendants were received in Crown Court during July to September 2010 (a 21% increase since the same period last year, when 428 defendants were received). 182 defendants were dealt with during July to September 2010 (compared with 183 defendants dealt with in the same period last year).

Waiting times:

The average time from committal to hearing for July to September 2010 was 123 days, compared with 112 days for the same period in 2009. The average time from conviction to disposal was 75 days, compared with 65 days for the equivalent period in 2009.

Disposals:

County Court Judges disposed of 98% of defendants (178). 14% of defendants were charged solely with offences against the person while 38% of defendants had a combination of charges.

Pleas and findings:

Of the 182 defendants disposed, 64 (35%) pleaded guilty to all charges.

Crown Court sittings:

In total there were 325 Crown court sittings for July to September 2010 compared with 351 for July to September 2009 (a decrease of 7%), with a total time of 938 hours sat compared with 1040 hours sat during the same period last year. (Please note that Summer recess took place during July & August 2010).

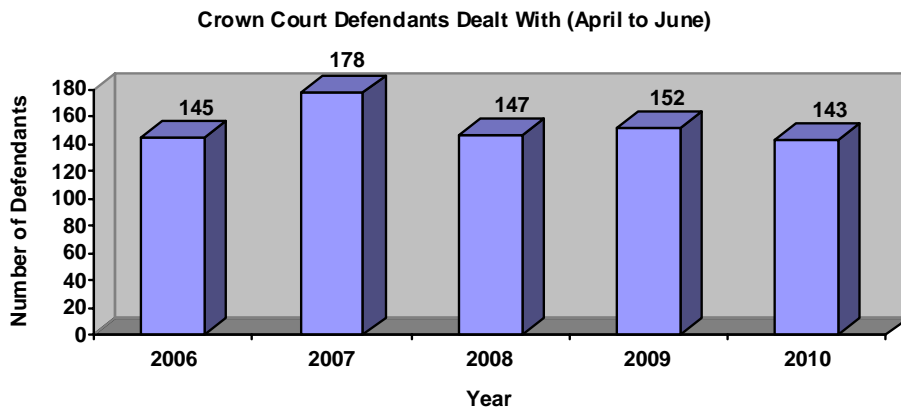


Table 1- Crown Court cases received

	Total
Belfast	156
Londonderry	46
Antrim	40
Fermanagh and Tyrone	53
Armagh and South Down	38
Ards	28
Craigavon	44
Total	405

Table 2 - Crown Court cases disposed

	Total
Belfast	47
Londonderry	6
Antrim	22
Fermanagh and Tyrone	39
Armagh and South Down	10
Ards	2
Craigavon	17
Total	143

Table 3 - Crown Court defendants received

	Total
Belfast	218
Londonderry	55
Antrim	46
Fermanagh and Tyrone	63
Armagh and South Down	45
Ards	35
Craigavon	54
Total	516

Table 4 - Crown Court defendants disposed

	Total
Belfast	64
Londonderry	8
Antrim	28
Fermanagh and Tyrone	50
Armagh and South Down	10
Ards	4
Craigavon	18
Total	182

Table 5 - Waiting times in days

	Committal to hearing - days	Conviction to disposal - days	Total defendants disposed
Belfast	157	101	60
Londonderry	65	150	7
Antrim	189	90	25
Fermanagh and Tyrone	71	30	49
Armagh and South Down	131	99	9
Ards	180	84	3
Craigavon	67	42	17
Total	123	75	170

[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	60	4	64
Londonderry	8		8
Antrim	28		28
Fermanagh and Tyrone	50		50
Armagh and South Down	10		10
Ards	4		4
Craigavon	18		18
Total	178	4	182

Table 7 - Crown Court defendants disposed by charge type

All Offences Against the Person	26
All Sexual Offences	12
All Burglary Offences	12
All Robbery Offences	3
All Theft Offences	18
All Fraud and Forgery Offences	4
All Criminal Damage Offences	3
All Offences Against the State	6
All Other Offences	4
All Drug Offences	20
All Motoring Offences	4
Combination of charges	70
Total	182

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	23	26	14	1	64
Londonderry	3	4	1		8
Antrim	11	14	3		28
Fermanagh and Tyrone	15	25	10		50
Armagh and South Down	3	3	3	1	10
Ards	2	2			4
Craigavon	7	6	5		18
Total	64	80	36	2	182

Table 9 - Crown Court sitting times

	Number of sittings	Total time
Belfast	154	453:28:00
Londonderry	29	73:48:00
Antrim	42	145:28:00
Fermanagh and Tyrone	31	92:44:00
Armagh and South Down	32	67:47:00
Ards	9	26:06:00
Craigavon	28	78:49:00
Total	325	938:10:00

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