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Northern Ireland Court Service

Crown Court Bulletin

July - September 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 July to September 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 286 Crown cases received during July to September 2008. This is a 31% decrease on the 415 received during July to September 2007. The cases dealt with have decreased by 17% from 178 in July to September 2007, to 147 in 2008.

- **Defendants received and dealt with:**

359 defendants were received in Crown Court during July to September 2008 (a 28% decrease since the same period last year). 180 defendants were dealt with during July to September 2008 (a decrease of 22% against the same period last year)

- **Waiting times:**

The average time from committal to hearing for July to September 2008 was 116 days, an increase of 4% against the same period in 2007. The average time from conviction to disposal was 71 days, a decrease of 7% on the same period in 2007.

- **Disposals:**

County Court Judges disposed of 96% of defendants (173), and 14% of defendants were charged solely with drug offences. 38% of defendants had a combination of charges.

- **Pleas and findings:**

Of the 180 defendants disposed, 47% pleaded guilty to all charges and were therefore found guilty on all charges.

- **Crown Court sittings:**

In total there were 338 Crown court sittings for July to September 2008 in comparison to 343 for July to September 2007 (a decrease of 1%), with a total time of 808 hours sat compared to 782 hours sat during the same period last year.

Crown Court Cases Dealt With (July - September)

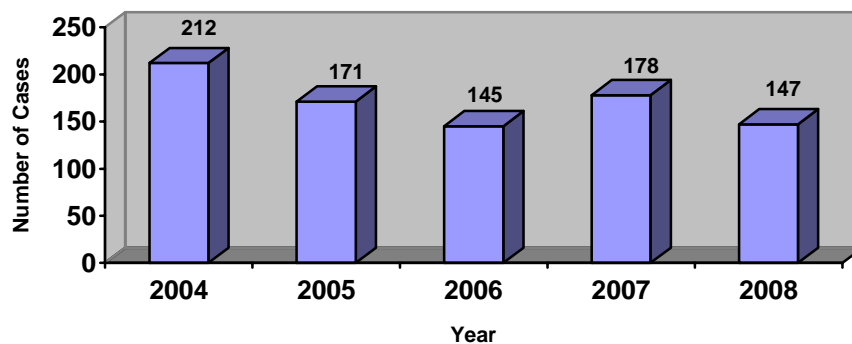


Table 1 - Crown Court cases received

	Total
Belfast	107
Londonderry	28
Antrim	31
Fermanagh and Tyrone	34
Armagh and South Down	24
Ards	32
Craigavon	30
Total	286

Table 2 - Crown Court cases disposed

	Total
Belfast	59
Londonderry	11
Antrim	19
Fermanagh and Tyrone	21
Armagh and South Down	10
Ards	16
Craigavon	11
Total	147

Table 3 - Crown Court defendants received

	Total
Belfast	136
Londonderry	32
Antrim	39
Fermanagh and Tyrone	46
Armagh and South Down	30
Ards	42
Craigavon	34
Total	359

Table 4 - Crown Court defendants disposed

	Total
Belfast	71
Londonderry	14
Antrim	27
Fermanagh and Tyrone	23
Armagh and South Down	16
Ards	18
Craigavon	11
Total	180

Table 5 - Waiting times in days

	Committal to hearing - days	Conviction to disposal - days	Total defendants disposed
Belfast	129	79	65
Londonderry	105	55	14
Antrim	70	94	25
Fermanagh and Tyrone	74	57	22
Armagh and South Down	164	38	15
Ards	85	63	15
Craigavon	219	61	11
Total	116	71	167

[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	66	5	71
Londonderry	14	.	14
Antrim	27	.	27
Fermanagh and Tyrone	23	.	23
Armagh and South Down	16	.	16
Ards	17	1	18
Craigavon	10	1	11
Total	173	7	180

Table 7 - Crown Court defendants disposed by charge type

All Offences Against the Person	20
All Sexual Offences	20
All Burglary Offences	9
All Robbery Offences	4
All Theft Offences	15
All Fraud and Forgery Offences	5
All Criminal Damage Offences	3
All Offences Against the State	1
All Other Offences	4
All Drug Offences	25
All Motoring Offences	2
All Non-Police Offences	4
Combination of charges	68
Total	180

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	34	25	12	.	71
Londonderry	3	7	4	.	14
Antrim	18	8	1	.	27
Fermanagh and Tyrone	9	12	2	.	23
Armagh and South Down	5	7	3	1	16
Ards	13	4	1	.	18
Craigavon	3	6	2	.	11
Total	85	69	25	1	180

Table 9 - Crown Court sitting times

		Number of sittings	Total time
	Belfast	175	327:26:00
	Londonderry	39	138:21:24
	Antrim	40	158:04:00
	Fermanagh and Tyrone	16	47:20:00
	Armagh and South Down	30	71:39:00
	Ards	21	38:47:00
	Craigavon	17	26:33:00
Total		338	808:10:24