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## Northern Ireland Court Service

### Crown Court Bulletin

**July - September 2009**  
(PROVISIONAL FIGURES)



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Northern Ireland  
Statistics &  
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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 328 Crown cases received during July to September 2009. This is a 15% increase on the 286 received during July to September 2008. The number of cases dealt with has increased by 3% from 147 in July to September 2008, to 152 in 2009 (Figure 1).

- **Defendants received and dealt with:**

428 defendants were received in the Crown Court during July to September 2009 (a 19% increase on the same period last year, when 359 were received). 183 defendants were dealt with during July to September 2009 (an increase of 2% compared with the same period last year, when 180 defendants were dealt with).

- **Waiting times:**

The average time from committal to hearing for July to September 2009 was 112 days, a decrease of 3% compared with the same period in 2008 (116 days). The average time from conviction to disposal was 65 days, a decrease of 8% on the same period in 2008 (71 days).

- **Disposals:**

County Court Judges disposed of 95% of defendants (173). 15% of defendants were charged solely with drug offences while 32% of defendants had a combination of charges.

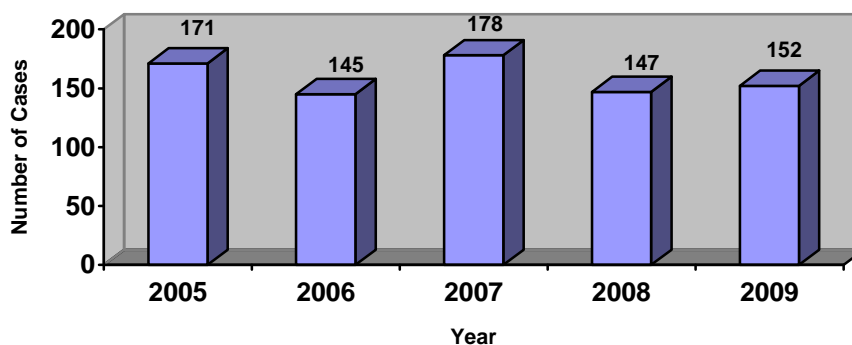
- **Pleas and findings:**

Of the 183 defendants disposed, 44% pleaded guilty to all charges.

- **Crown Court sittings:**

In total there were 351 Crown Court sittings for July to September 2009 in comparison with 338 for July to September 2008 (an increase of 4%), with a total time of 1040 hours sat during July to September 2009, compared with 808 hours sat during the same period in 2008.

**Figure 1: Crown Court Cases Dealt With (July - September)**



**Table 1 - Crown Court cases received**

	<b>Total</b>
Belfast	116
Londonderry	44
Antrim	44
Fermanagh and Tyrone	33
Armagh and South Down	25
Ards	33
Craigavon	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>328</b>

**Table 2 - Crown Court cases disposed**

	<b>Total</b>
Belfast	63
Londonderry	12
Antrim	25
Fermanagh and Tyrone	20
Armagh and South Down	7
Ards	14
Craigavon	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>

**Table 3 - Crown Court defendants received**

	<b>Total</b>
Belfast	155
Londonderry	51
Antrim	65
Fermanagh and Tyrone	42
Armagh and South Down	42
Ards	36
Craigavon	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>428</b>

**Table 4 - Crown Court defendants disposed**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	74
<b>Londonderry</b>	17
<b>Antrim</b>	29
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	26
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	10
<b>Ards</b>	14
<b>Craigavon</b>	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>

**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>	145	66	70
<b>Londonderry</b>	60	75	17
<b>Antrim</b>	88	89	26
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	89	40	23
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	103	96	10
<b>Ards</b>	127	33	14
<b>Craigavon</b>	75	63	12
<b>All venues</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>172</b>

[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>	65	9	74
<b>Londonderry</b>	17	0	17
<b>Antrim</b>	29	0	29
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	25	1	26
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	10	0	10
<b>Ards</b>	14	0	14
<b>Craigavon</b>	13	0	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>183</b>

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

<b>All Offences Against the Person</b>	22
<b>All Sexual Offences</b>	22
<b>All Burglary Offences</b>	6
<b>All Robbery Offences</b>	3
<b>All Theft Offences</b>	11
<b>All Fraud and Forgery Offences</b>	5
<b>All Criminal Damage Offences</b>	9
<b>All Offences Against the State</b>	1
<b>All Other Offences</b>	7
<b>All Drug Offences</b>	27
<b>All Motoring Offences</b>	7
<b>All Non-Police Offences</b>	4
<b>Combination of charges</b>	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>

**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>	37	28	9	0	74
<b>Londonderry</b>	8	5	4	0	17
<b>Antrim</b>	14	11	4	0	29
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	10	10	6	0	26
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	2	3	3	2	10
<b>Ards</b>	6	6	2	0	14
<b>Craigavon</b>	4	6	3	0	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>183</b>

**Table 9 - Crown Court sitting times**

	Number of sittings	Total time (Hr:Min:Sec)
<b>Belfast</b>	151	432:53:00
<b>Londonderry</b>	31	64:59:24
<b>Antrim</b>	71	267:26:00
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	14	54:30:00
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	29	76:25:00
<b>Ards</b>	31	74:57:00
<b>Craigavon</b>	24	69:08:00
<b>Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>1040:18:24</b>