



Northern Ireland

**Courts and  
Tribunals Service**

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# Crown Court Bulletin

## October - December 2011

*serving the community through the administration of justice*

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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 449 Crown cases received during October to December 2011. This was a 7% increase on the 420 received during October to December 2010. The number of cases dealt with have increased by 32% from 365 in October to December 2010, to 480 for the same period in 2011.

- **Defendants received and dealt with:**

577 defendants were received in Crown Court during October to December 2011 (an 8% increase since the same period last year, when 534 defendants were received). 594 defendants were dealt with during October to December 2011 (an increase of 35% against the same period last year, when 439 defendants were dealt with).

- **Waiting times:**

The average time from committal to hearing for October to December 2011 was 138 days, compared with 118 days for the same period in 2010. The average time from conviction to disposal was 43 days, compared with 50 days for the equivalent period in 2010.

- **Disposals:**

County Court Judges disposed of 99% of defendants (588), compared with 97% (424) of defendants in October to December 2010. 13% of defendants were charged solely with offences against the person while 40% of defendants had a combination of charges. During the same period last year 16% of defendants were charged solely with offences against the person, and 35% of defendants had a combination of charges.

- **Pleas and findings:**

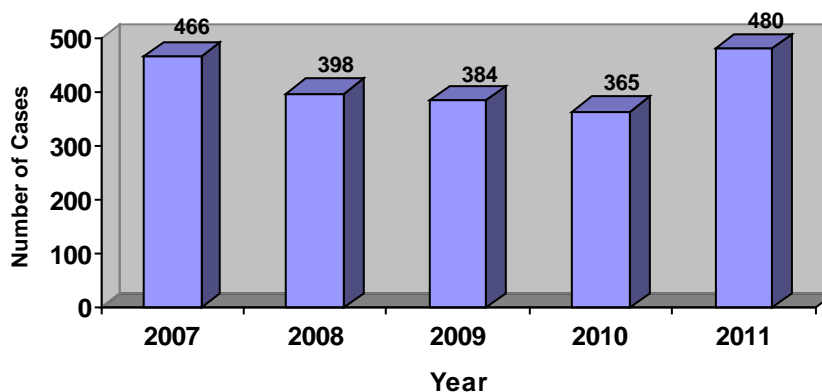
Of the 594 defendants disposed in October to December 2011, 272 (46%) pleaded guilty to all charges, compared with 198 (45%) during October to December 2010.

- **Crown Court sittings:**

In total there were 750 Crown court sittings for October to December 2011 compared with 802 for October to December 2010 (a decrease of 6%), with a total time of 2481 hours sat compared with 2370 hours sat during the same period last year.

**(Please note that Christmas recess took place during December 2011).**

Figure 1: Crown Court Cases Dealt With (October - December)



**Table 1 - Crown Court cases received**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	151
<b>Londonderry</b>	48
<b>Antrim</b>	48
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	67
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	42
<b>Ards</b>	55
<b>Craigavon</b>	38
<b>Total</b>	449

**Table 2 - Crown Court cases disposed**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	140
<b>Londonderry</b>	52
<b>Antrim</b>	47
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	61
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	45
<b>Ards</b>	72
<b>Craigavon</b>	63
<b>Total</b>	480

**Table 3 - Crown Court defendants received**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	197
<b>Londonderry</b>	55
<b>Antrim</b>	57
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	88
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	63
<b>Ards</b>	66
<b>Craigavon</b>	51
<b>Total</b>	577

**Table 4 - Crown Court defendants disposed**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	169
<b>Londonderry</b>	65
<b>Antrim</b>	62
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	75
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	64
<b>Ards</b>	83
<b>Craigavon</b>	76
<b>Total</b>	594

**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>	173	53	159
<b>Londonderry</b>	84	45	64
<b>Antrim</b>	148	46	60
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	97	43	72
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	128	28	63
<b>Ards</b>	134	36	81
<b>Craigavon</b>	149	43	74
<b>Total</b>	138	43	573

[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>	166	3	169
<b>Londonderry</b>	65		65
<b>Antrim</b>	62		62
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	73	2	75
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	64		64
<b>Ards</b>	83		83
<b>Craigavon</b>	75	1	76
<b>Total</b>	588	6	594

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

<b>All Offences Against the Person</b>	79
<b>All Sexual Offences</b>	38
<b>All Burglary Offences</b>	17
<b>All Robbery Offences</b>	21
<b>All Theft Offences</b>	43
<b>All Fraud and Forgery Offences</b>	34
<b>All Criminal Damage Offences</b>	14
<b>All Offences Against the State</b>	8
<b>All Other Offences</b>	32
<b>All Drug Offences</b>	47
<b>All Motoring Offences</b>	24
<b>All Non-Police Offences</b>	1
<b>Combination of charges</b>	236
<b>Total</b>	594

**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	Total
<b>Belfast</b>	77	58	34	169
<b>Londonderry</b>	36	18	11	65
<b>Antrim</b>	22	33	7	62
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	32	27	16	75
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	27	33	4	64
<b>Ards</b>	41	33	9	83
<b>Craigavon</b>	37	33	6	76
<b>Total</b>	272	235	87	594

**Table 9 - Crown Court sitting times**

	Number of sittings	Total time
<b>Belfast</b>	285	1023:41:24
<b>Londonderry</b>	50	163:02:00
<b>Antrim</b>	93	367:34:00
<b>Fermanagh and Tyrone</b>	55	141:19:24
<b>Armagh and South Down</b>	107	346:12:24
<b>Ards</b>	90	216:50:00
<b>Craigavon</b>	70	221:52:00
<b>Total</b>	750	2480:31:12

**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.

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