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Northern Ireland Court Service

Crown Court Bulletin

October – December 2008
(PROVISIONAL FIGURES)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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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 October to December 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 298 Crown cases received during October to December 2008. This is an 11% decrease on the 336 received during October to December 2007. The cases dealt with have decreased by 15% from 466 in October to December 2007, to 398 in 2008.

- **Defendants received and dealt with:**

361 defendants were received in Crown Court during October to December 2008 (a 12% decrease since the same period last year). 520 defendants were dealt with during October to December 2008 (a decrease of 11% against the same period last year)

- **Waiting times:**

The average time from committal to hearing for October to December 2008 was 142 days, an increase of 27% against the same period in 2007. The average time from conviction to disposal was 46 days, a decrease of 10% on the same period in 2007.

- **Disposals:**

County Court Judges disposed of 93% of defendants (483), and 15% of defendants were charged solely with offences against the person. 44% of defendants had a combination of charges.

- **Pleas and findings:**

Of the 520 defendants disposed, 40% pleaded guilty to all charges and were therefore found guilty on all charges.

- **Crown Court sittings:**

In total there were 753 Crown court sittings for October to December 2008 in comparison to 720 for October to December 2007 (an increase of 5%), with a total time of 1946 hours sat compared to 1822 hours sat during the same period last year.

Crown Court Cases Dealt With (October - December)

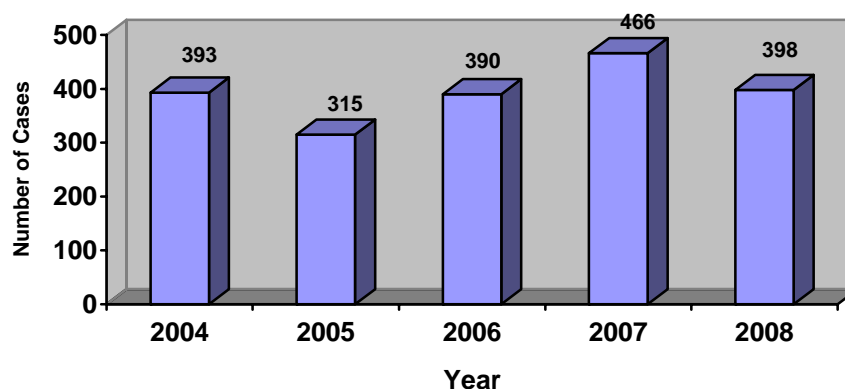


Table 1 - Crown Court cases received

	Total
Belfast	106
Londonderry	35
Antrim	43
Fermanagh and Tyrone	33
Armagh and South Down	29
Ards	26
Craigavon	26
Total	298

Table 2 - Crown Court cases disposed

	Total
Belfast	136
Londonderry	38
Antrim	46
Fermanagh and Tyrone	51
Armagh and South Down	43
Ards	38
Craigavon	46
Total	398

**Table 3 - Crown Court defendants
received**

	Total
Belfast	132
Londonderry	37
Antrim	53
Fermanagh and Tyrone	36
Armagh and South Down	42
Ards	31
Craigavon	30
Total	361

**Table 4 - Crown Court defendants
disposed**

	Total
Belfast	180
Londonderry	44
Antrim	60
Fermanagh and Tyrone	68
Armagh and South Down	66
Ards	43
Craigavon	59
Total	520

Table 5 - Waiting times in days

	Committal to hearing - days	Conviction to disposal - days	Total defendants disposed
Belfast	172	62	170
Londonderry	115	54	43
Antrim	107	44	56
Fermanagh and Tyrone	91	35	66
Armagh and South Down	181	29	65
Ards	144	22	42
Craigavon	121	47	57
Total	142	46	499

[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	156	24	180
Londonderry	44		44
Antrim	60		60
Fermanagh and Tyrone	67	1	68
Armagh and South Down	56	10	66
Ards	42	1	43
Craigavon	59		59
Total	483	36	520

Table 7 - Crown Court defendants disposed by charge type

All Offences Against the Person	76
All Sexual Offences	44
All Burglary Offences	22
All Robbery Offences	7
All Theft Offences	26
All Fraud and Forgery Offences	10
All Criminal Damage Offences	10
All Offences Against the State	4
All Other Offences	17
All Drug Offences	54
All Motoring Offences	11
All Non-Police Offences	9
Combination of charges	230
Total	520

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	79	73	28		180
Londonderry	22	15	7		44
Antrim	32	23	4	1	60
Fermanagh and Tyrone	17	37	14		68
Armagh and South Down	16	41	9		66
Ards	24	17	2		43
Craigavon	20	21	18		59
Total	210	227	82	1	520

Table 9 - Crown Court sitting times

	Number of sittings	Total time
Belfast	307	721:55:00
Londonderry	75	237:14:00
Antrim	117	377:19:00
Fermanagh and Tyrone	70	195:38:00
Armagh and South Down	48	88:42:00
Ards	72	143:34:00
Craigavon	64	182:05:00
Total	753	1946:27:00