

High Court Bulletin

April to June 2011

serving the community through the administration of justice

Document Details

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High Court figures on Children's Order cases, Crown Court cases, bail applications and appeals appear in other bulletins.

In the tables relating to time intervals, the total time from issue to disposal may not equal that of the individual time periods due to some dates not being applicable.

Figures are run from an administrative database and may change due to late returns and further validations.

Summary

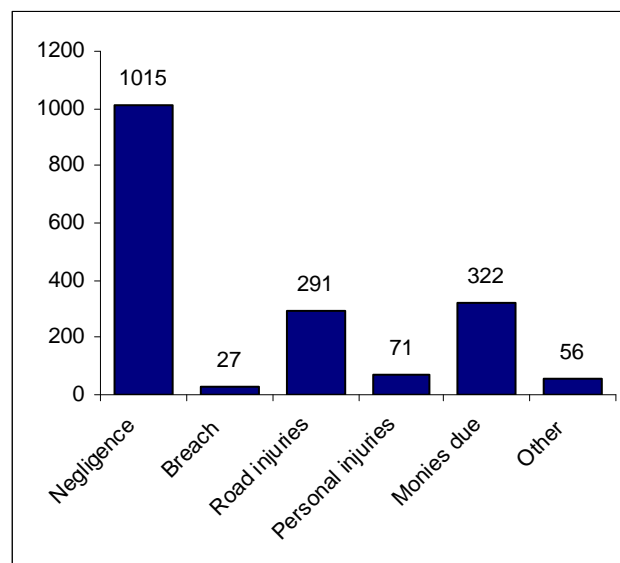
Chancery

- During April – June 2011 there were 1,913 cases received into the Chancery division (1,828 in the same period in 2010). In total, 55% were chancery cases, 35% were bankruptcy cases and 10% were companies' cases. Comparable figures were 57%, 34% and 9% respectively for the same period in 2010.
- There were 1,561 cases disposed of during April – June 2011. This represents a 1% increase from 1,548 cases disposed of in the same period in 2010.

Queen's Bench

- During April – June 2011 there were 1,782 writs received in Queen's Bench (1,891 in the same period in 2010). Of these, 57% were negligence cases (47% in the same period in 2010).
- There were 194 default judgments, 418 office disposals and 728 court disposals for writs during the quarter. Comparable figures were 266, 357 and 766 respectively for the same period in 2010.
- There were 204 removals and remittals applications dealt with during April – June 2011. This represents a 4% increase from 196 in the same period in 2010.
- A breakdown of the number of writs received during April – June 2011 is outlined in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Number of writs received by type of writ



Judicial Reviews

- During April – June 2011, there were 52 applications for leave to apply for Judicial Review and 20 applications for Judicial Review received. Comparable figures were 72 and 26 respectively for the same period in 2010.

Probate

- During April – June 2011, there were 1,748 grants issued in the probate office. This compares with 1,726 for the same period in 2010.

Wardship and Adoption

- During April – June 2011, there were 27 adoption applications received and 31 adoption applications disposed of. Comparable figures were 34 and 30 respectively for the same period in 2010.
- It took, on average, 29 weeks for an adoption application to progress through the courts (40 weeks for the same period in 2010).

Matrimonial

- During April – June 2011, there were 606 divorce petitions lodged in the High Court. Of these, 385 (64%) petitions were lodged by the wife. Comparable figures were 681 and 425 (62%) respectively for the same period in 2010.
- In total, 272 decrees nisi and 271 absolutes were issued. Comparable figures were 429 and 263 respectively for the same period in 2010.

Patients

- During April – June 2011, there were 183 new referrals in the Patients section (222 for the same period in 2010).

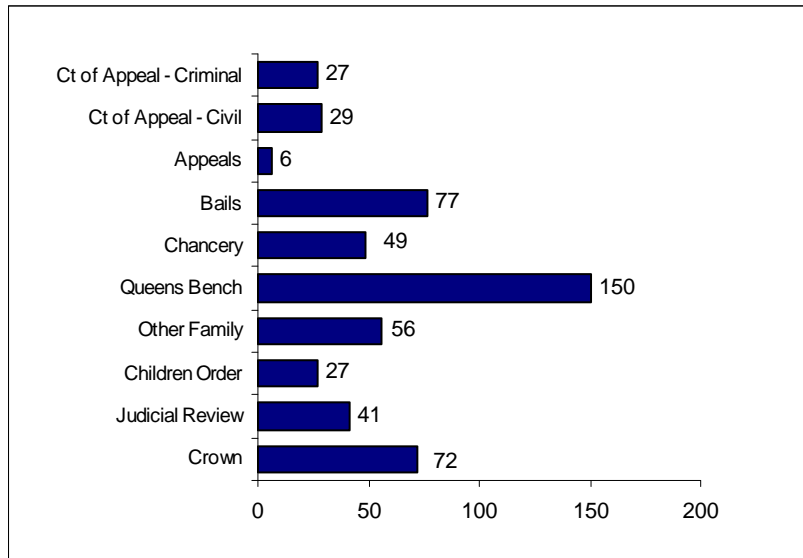
Official Solicitors

- During April – June 2011, there were 754 certificates drafted in the Official Solicitors office (660 for the same period in 2010).

Sitting days and times

- During April – June 2011, there were 534 sitting days in the High Court (633 for the same period in 2010).¹
- A breakdown of sitting days by business type is outlined in Figure 2 below:

Figure 2: Number of sitting days by business type



¹ Easter recess took place in April in 2011, as opposed to March in 2010.

Chancery

Table 1: Chancery cases and applications received

Case	Mortgages	939
	Other land and property	17
	Trade and business	8
	Trusts	2
	Other	81
	Total	1047
Application	Notice of appointment	818
	Summons	349
	Notice of motion	14
	Exparte application	95
	Injunction	4
	Total	1280

Table 2: Chancery cases setdown

Case	Other land and property	12
	Trade and business	3
	Other	25
	Total	40

Table 3: Chancery cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Office disposal	Total
Case	Mortgages	3	616	1	620
	Other land and property	17	1	4	22
	Trade and business		1	1	2
	Trusts	1	4		5
	Other	34	6	13	53
	Total	55	628	19	702
Application	Notice of appointment	5	37	4	46
	Summons	67	259	1	327
	Notice of motion	10	1		11
	Exparte application	3	90	1	94
	Injunction	1			1
	Total	86	387	6	479

Table 4: Bankruptcy cases and applications received

Case	Petition by another person	338
	Petition by debtor	230
	Other petition	15
	Originating application	62
	Other	30
	Total	675
Application	Notice of motion	1
	Ordinary application	220
	Certificate of automatic discharge	4
	Other	1
	Total	226

Table 5: Bankruptcy cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Office disposal	Total
Case	Petition by another person		376	1	377
	Petition by debtor		237		237
	Other petition		27		27
	Originating application		19		19
	Other		28		28
	Total		687	1	688
Application	Ordinary application	2	204		206
	Certificate of automatic discharge			4	4
	Other		3		3
	Total	2	207	4	213

**Table 6: Companies cases and applications
received**

Case	Winding up petition	96
	Other petitions	5
	Originating summons	21
	Other	69
	Total	191
Application	Notice of motion	1
	Ordinary application	15
	Other	6
	Total	22

Table 7: Companies cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Office disposal	Total
Case	Winding up petition	2	94		96
	Other petitions		12		12
	Originating summons	2	12	1	15
	Other	6	42		48
	Total	10	160	1	171
Application	Notice of motion	1			1
	Ordinary application	1	9		10
	Other	2	4		6
	Total	4	13		17

Table 8: Time intervals in weeks

	Chancery		Bankruptcy		Companies	
	Case	Application	Case	Application	Case	Application
Issue to first listing	22	5	5	3	6	1
First listing to disposal	8	6	5	4	5	4
Issue to disposal	33	9	10	6	11	5

Due to rounding, individual time intervals may not equal the overall time taken to progress through the courts

Queen's Bench

Table 9: Queen's Bench cases and applications received

Writs and originating summons	Negligence	1015
	Breach	27
	Road injuries	291
	Personal injuries	71
	Monies due	322
	Other	56
	Total	1782
Miscellaneous	Foreign judgement	87
	Other	8
	Total	95
Applications	Summons/interlocutory applications	488
	Remittals and removals	183
	Exparte applications	102
	Other	119
	Total	892

Table 10: Queen's Bench writs and originating summons received by amount claimed

	Unliquidated	£1,000-2,999	£3,000-14,999	Over £15,000	Total
Negligence	1013		1	1	1015
Breach	25			2	27
Road injuries	291				291
Personal injuries	71				71
Monies due	29	2	90	201	322
Other	53		1	2	56
Total	1482	2	92	206	1782

Table 11: Queen's Bench writs and originating summons setdown by amount claimed

	Unliquidated	£3,000-14,999	Over £15,000	Total
Negligence	373			373
Breach	3		2	5
Road injuries	45	1	3	49
Personal injuries	28	3	1	32
Monies due			3	3
Other	6		1	7
Total	455	4	10	469

Table 12: Queen's Bench cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Office disposal	Default judgement	Total
Writs and originating summons	Negligence	459	102	294	17	872
	Breach	4		3	2	9
	Road injuries	75	2	45	4	126
	Personal injuries	43	3	57	2	105
	Monies due	14		13	168	195
	Other	24	2	6	1	33
	Total	619	109	418	194	1340
Miscellaneous	Foreign judgement		4			4
	Total		4			4
Applications	Summons/interlocutory applications	54	466			520
	Remittals and removals	3	201			204
	Exparte applications	15	59			74
	Other	44	75			119
	Total	116	801			917

Excludes commercial actions

Table 13: Queen's Bench writs and originating summons disposed of by amount

		Unliquidated	£1,000-2,999	£3,000-14,999	Over £15,000	Total
High Court Judge	Negligence	388	5	25	41	459
	Breach	1		2	1	4
	Road injuries	9		11	55	75
	Personal injuries	23		4	16	43
	Monies due	9			5	14
	Other	11			13	24
Master	Negligence	102				102
	Road injuries	2				2
	Personal injuries	2			1	3
	Other	2				2
Default judgement	Negligence	17				17
	Breach	1			1	2
	Road injuries	4				4
	Personal injuries	2				2
	Monies due	6	4	45	113	168
	Other	1				1
Total		580	9	87	246	922

Excludes commercial actions

Table 14: Time intervals in weeks

	Writs and originating summons	Miscellaneous	Applications
Issue to setdown	95	.	.
Issue to first listing	95	.	3
First listing to disposal	19	.	6
Issue to disposal	167	0	7

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

Due to rounding and not all writs and originating summons having a set-down date, individual time intervals may not equal the overall time taken to progress through the courts

**Table 15: Queen's Bench cases
received into commercial list**

Negligence	8
Breach of Contract	5
Monies due	24
Other	5
Total	42

**Table 16: Queen's Bench
commercial actions setdown**

Breach of Contract	2
Monies due	2
Other	1
Total	5

Table 17: Queen's Bench commercial actions disposed

	High Court Judge	Office disposal	Default judgement	Total
Negligence	26	1		27
Breach of Contract	11			11
Monies due	20		2	22
Other	11			11
Total	68	1	2	71

Table 18: Time intervals in weeks

	Commercial actions
Received to Entry to commercial list	68
Entry to commercial list to first listing	19
First listing to disposal	55
Received to disposal	142

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

Due to rounding and not all writs and originating summons having a set-down date, individual time intervals may not equal the overall time taken to progress through the courts

Judicial Reviews

Table 19: Judicial Reviews applications received

Application for leave to apply for judicial review	52
Application for judicial review	20

Table 20: Judicial Reviews applications disposed

	Granted	Withdrawn/Refused/Dissmissed	Other	Total
Application for leave to apply for judicial review	20	17	9	46
Application for judicial review	4	11	11	26

Table 21: Time intervals in weeks

	Application for leave to apply for judicial review	Application for judicial review
Issue to first listing	3	7
First listing to disposal	4	42
Issue to disposal	6	48

Due to rounding, individual time intervals may not equal the overall time taken to progress through the courts

Probate

Table 22: Probate grants issued in non-contentious proceedings

	District registry		Probate		Northern Ireland
	By solicitor	Personal	By solicitor	Personal	
Grant of administration			1		1
Letters of administration with will annexed	12		51		63
Letters of administration with will annexed (DBN)			2		2
Letters of administration	56	6	257	42	361
Grant of probate	185	11	1041	77	1314
Letters of administration (DBN)	1		6		7
Total grants issued	254	17	1358	119	1748

Wardship and adoption

Table 23: Adoption cases and applications received

Adoption Order Application	14
Child Abduction Originating Summons	2
Freeing Order Application	4
Originating Summons (General)	1
Interlocutory Application	2
Wardship Originating Summons	4
Total	27

Table 24: Adoption cases and applications disposed

	High Court Judge	Master	Total
Adoption Order Application	14		14
Child Abduction Originating Summons	2		2
Children (Ni) Order Application	1		1
Freeing Order Application	5		5
Originating Summons (General)	1		1
Human Fertilisation Originating Summons	1		1
Interlocutory Application	2		2
Wardship Originating Summons	2	3	5
Total	28	3	31

Table 25: Family homes and domestic violence cases and applications received

App For Occup/Non Mol	2
Exparte App For Occup/Non Mol	7
Article 24 Vary/Discharge non-molestation order	1
Total	10

Table 26: Family homes and domestic violence cases and applications disposed

	High Court Judge	Master	Total
App For Occup/Non Mol	2	1	3
Exparte App For Occup/Non Mol		9	9
Article 24 Vary/Discharge non-molestation order	1		1
Total	3	10	13

Table 27: Time intervals in weeks

	Adoption	Family Homes And Domestic Violence
Issue to first listing	14	1
First listing to disposal	14	7
Issue to disposal	29	9

Due to rounding, individual time intervals may not equal the overall time taken to progress through the courts

Matrimonial

Table 28: Divorce petitions received

		Filed by		Total
		Wife	Husband	
Divorce Petition	2 years with consent	139	96	235
	5 years separation	93	91	184
	Adultery	13		13
	Unreasonable behaviour	99	19	118
	Combination of grounds/other	41	15	56
Total		385	221	606

Table 29: Divorce petitions by type of Decree Nisi

		Found by			Total
		Wife	Husband	Both	
Decree Nisi	2 years with consent	50	46		96
	5 years separation	27	24		51
	Adultery	5			5
	Unreasonable behaviour	48	2	1	51
	Combination of grounds/other	45	18	4	67
Nullity	Combination of grounds/other		1		1
Judicial Separation	Unreasonable behaviour	1			1
Total		176	91	5	272

Table 30: Divorce petitions by number of absolutes issued

		Found by			Total
		Wife	Husband	Both	
Divorce Petition	2 years with consent	55	38		93
	5 years separation	27	31		58
	Adultery	2	2		4
	Unreasonable behaviour	48	5	1	54
	Combination of grounds/other	49	13		62
Total		181	89	1	271

Table 31: Matrimonial applications received

Application	Combination of grounds/other	6
	Ancillary relief	155
	Matrimonial application	154
	Other	17
Total		332

Table 32: Matrimonial applications disposed

		Judge	Master	Total
Application	Combination of grounds/other	4	1	5
	Ancillary relief	1	175	176
	Matrimonial application	8	129	137
	Other	6	1	7
Total		19	306	325

Table 33: Time intervals in weeks for divorce petitions

	Divorce Petition
Issue to first listing	36
First listing to date decree granted	4
Issue to date decree granted	40
Date decree granted to date absolute issued	8

Due to rounding, individual time intervals may not equal the overall time taken to progress through the courts

Table 34: Time intervals in weeks for divorce applications

	Combination of grounds/other	Ancillary relief	Matrimonial application	Other
Issue to first listing	0	5	4	0
First listing to disposal	5	52	6	7
Issue to disposal	5	57	10	7

Due to rounding, individual time intervals may not equal the overall time taken to progress through the courts

High Court Bail

Table 35: Number of bail applications received

Bail application	332
Bail pending appeal to county court	11
Compassionate bail application	66
Application to revoke bail	2
Bail variation	128
Total	539

Table 36: Number of bail applications disposed in chambers

	Granted	Refused	Revoke	Other	Total
Bail variation	67	1	1	23	92
Total	67	1	1	23	92

Table 37: Number of bail applications disposed of in court

	Granted	Refused	Other	Total
Bail application	129	144	20	293
Bail pending appeal to county court	4	6	1	11
Compassionate bail application	36	18	2	56
Application to revoke bail		2		2
Bail variation	25	8	2	35
Total	194	178	25	397

Patients

Table 38: Patients workload figures

New referrals	183
EPA applications received	122
Orders issued	287
Certificates issued	1841
Reviews completed	457
Visits	4

Official Solicitors Office

Table 39: Official Solicitor Statistics

Correspondence received	3610
New Referrals	4
OCP cases – OS instructed	57
OS appointed Controller Ad interim	3
Certificates drafted	754
OS appointed Full Controller	3

Sitting days and times

Table 40: High Court sitting days

Children Order	28
Other Family	57
Appeals	6
Queen's Bench	151
Chancery	49
Bails	79
Crown	72
Judicial Reviews	41
Criminal Appeals	27
Civil Appeals	30
Total	540

Table 41: High Court sitting times

Children Order	95:56:00
Other family	175:22:00
Appeals	24:35:00
Queens Bench	431:55:00
Chancery	150:28:00
Bails	126:19:00
Crown	178:45:00
Judicial reviews	80:45:00
Criminal appeals	48:14:00
Civil appeals	49:10:00
Total	1361:44:00

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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