

High Court Bulletin

January to March 2011

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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.

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.

Summary

During January - March 2011:

Chancery

There were 1,918 cases received into the Chancery division. In total, 51% were chancery cases, 39% were bankruptcy cases and 9% were companies' cases. There were 1,751 cases disposed of during the reporting period.

Queen's Bench

There were 1,835 writs received in Queen's Bench (Fig 1). Of those, 60% were negligence cases. There were 225 default judgments, 378 office disposals and 606 court disposals for writs during the quarter. There were 223 removals and remittals applications dealt with.

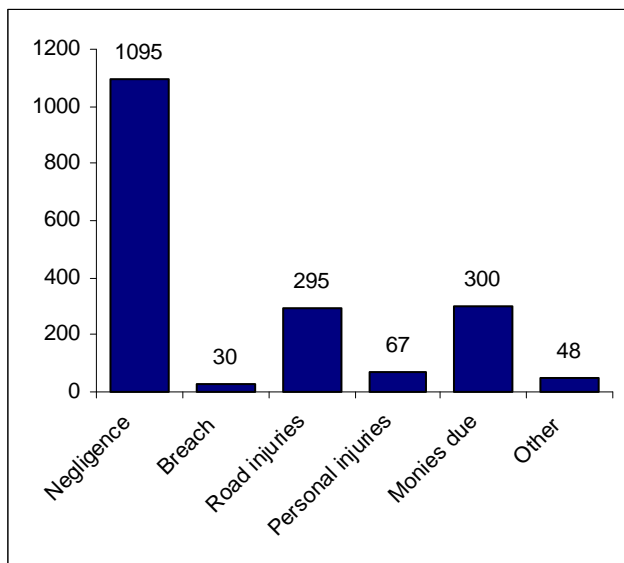
Judicial Reviews

There were 48 applications for leave to apply for Judicial Review, 18 applications for Judicial Review and 1 ancillary application received during the quarter.

Probate

There were 1,355 grants issued during the quarter in the probate office.

Figure 1: Number of writs received by type of writ



Wardship and Adoption

There were 31 adoption applications received and 22 adoption applications disposed of during the quarter. It took, on average, 26 weeks for an adoption application to progress through the courts.

Matrimonial

There were 625 divorce petitions lodged in the High Court. Of these, 386 petitions were lodged by the wife. In total, 261 decrees nisi and 212 absolutes were issued.

Patients

There were 219 new referrals in the Patients section.

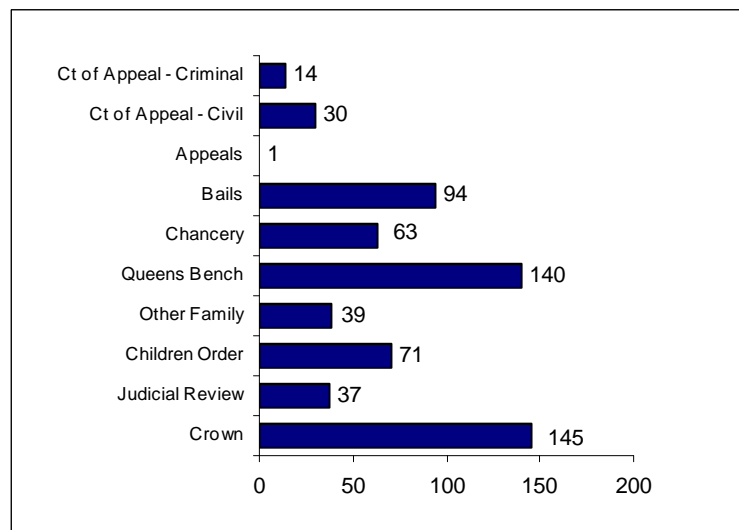
Official Solicitors

There were 799 certificates drafted in the Official Solicitors office.

Sitting days and times

There were 634 sitting days in the High Court during the quarter (Fig 2)

Figure 2: Number of sitting days by business type



Chancery

Table 1: Chancery cases and applications received

Case	Mortgages	856
	Other land and property	32
	Trade and business	2
	Trusts	3
	Other	90
	Total	983
Application	Notice of appointment	720
	Summons	338
	Notice of motion	13
	Exparte application	126
	Injunction	6
	Total	1203

Table 2: Chancery cases setdown

Case	Other land and property	6
	Trusts	1
	Other	34
	Total	41

Table 3: Chancery cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Office disposal	Total
Case	Mortgages	1	808		809
	Other land and property	14	1	1	16
	Trade and business	2			2
	Trusts	2			2
	Other	42	6	7	55
	Total	61	815	8	884
Application	Notice of appointment	2	78	5	85
	Summons	39	295	4	338
	Notice of motion	7	5		12
	Exparte application	3	114	1	118
	Injunction	3			3
	Total	54	492	10	556

Table 4: Bankruptcy cases and applications received

Case	Petition by another person	413
	Petition by debtor	249
	Other petition	30
	Originating application	32
	Other	30
	Total	754
Application	Notice of motion	2
	Ordinary application	275
	Certificate of automatic discharge	5
	Other	7
	Total	289

Table 5: Bankruptcy cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Office disposal	Total
Case	Petition by another person		355		355
	Petition by debtor		256		256
	Other petition		17		17
	Originating application	1	29	1	31
	Other		42		42
	Total	1	699	1	701
Application	Notice of motion	2	1		3
	Ordinary application		222	3	225
	Certificate of automatic discharge			4	4
	Other		4		4
	Total	2	227	7	236

Table 6: Companies cases and applications received

Case	Winding up petition	95
	Other petitions	16
	Originating summons	18
	Other	52
	Total	181
Application	Notice of motion	2
	Ordinary application	10
	Other	3
	Total	15

Table 7: Companies cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Total
Case	Winding up petition		101	101
	Other petitions		10	10
	Originating summons	1	15	16
	Other	11	28	39
	Total	12	154	166
Application	Notice of motion		2	2
	Ordinary application	2	7	9
	Other		1	1
	Total	2	10	12

Table 8: Time intervals in weeks

	Chancery		Bankruptcy		Companies	
	Case	Application	Case	Application	Case	Application
Issue to first listing	21	4	4	2	7	3
First listing to disposal	7	7	5	3	4	4
Issue to disposal	30	16	9	5	11	6

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	1095
	Breach	30
	Road injuries	295
	Personal injuries	67
	Monies due	300
	Other	48
	Total	1835
Miscellaneous	Foreign judgement	90
	Other	15
	Total	105
Applications	Summons/interlocutory applications	542
	Remittals and removals	164
	Exparte applications	69
	Other	135
	Total	910

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	1094		1		1095
Breach	30				30
Road injuries	294			1	295
Personal injuries	67				67
Monies due	36	4	62	198	300
Other	48				48
Total	1569	4	63	199	1835

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

	Unliquidated	£3,000-14,999	Over £15,000	Total
Negligence	305	1	1	307
Breach	3	1		4
Road injuries	52	1	2	55
Personal injuries	23	1	1	25
Monies due		1	6	7
Other	6		1	7
Total	389	5	11	405

Table 12: Queen's Bench cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Office disposal	Default judgement	Total
Writs and originating summons	Negligence	342	138	241	16	737
	Breach	2		8	2	12
	Road injuries	64	1	56	3	124
	Personal injuries	28	1	50	1	80
	Monies due	6		16	198	220
	Other	23	1	7	5	36
	Total	465	141	378	225	1209
Miscellaneous	Foreign judgement		1			1
	Other	3				3
	Total	3	1			4
Applications	Summons/ interlocutory applications	48	488			536
	Remittals and removals		223			223
	Exparte applications	2	41			43
	Other	51	73			124
	Total	101	825			926

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	274	1	22	45	342
	Breach	1		1		2
	Road injuries	6	1	7	50	64
	Personal injuries	14	1	5	8	28
	Monies due	3		1	2	6
	Other	16	1		6	23
Master	Negligence	137			1	138
	Road injuries				1	1
	Personal injuries	1				1
	Other	1				1
Default judgement	Negligence	15		1		16
	Breach	2				2
	Road injuries	3				3
	Personal injuries	1				1
	Monies due	4		72	122	198
	Other	3		2		5
Total		481	4	111	235	831

Excludes commercial actions

Table 14: Time Intervals in weeks

	Writs and originating summons	Miscellaneous	Applications
Issue to setdown	95	.	.
Issue to first listing	109	3	4
First listing to disposal	23	2	7
Issue to disposal	195	4	9

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	11
Breach	7
Monies due	14
Other	8
Total	40

Table 16: Queen's Bench commercial actions setdown

Negligence	5
Monies due	7
Other	4
Total	16

Table 17: Queen's Bench commercial actions disposed

	High Court Judge	Office disposal	Total
Negligence	12	1	13
Breach	11	2	13
Personal injuries	1		1
Monies due	22	1	23
Other	9	1	10
Total	55	5	60

Table 18: Commercial Actions Time intervals in weeks

	Commercial actions
Received to Entry to commercial list	73
Entry to commercial list to first listing	12
First listing to disposal	54
Received to disposal	140

Excludes default judgements and office disposals

Due to rounding and not all writs and originating summons having a set-down date

Judicial Reviews

Table 19: Judicial Reviews applications received

Application for leave to apply for judicial review	48
Application for judicial review	18
Ancillary applications	1

Table 20: Judicial Reviews applications disposed

	Granted	Withdrawn /Refused /Dismissed	Other	Total
Application for leave to apply for judicial review	21	14	5	40
Application for judicial review	3	9	3	15

Table 21: Time intervals in weeks

	Application for leave to apply for judicial review	Application for judicial review
Issue to first listing	4	6
First listing to disposal	6	21
Issue to disposal	9	24

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	
Letters of administration with will annexed		15		20	35
Letters of administration with will annexed (DBN)		1	1	1	3
Letters of administration	12	56	23	183	274
Grant of probate	11	197	26	801	1035
Letters of administration (DBN)	2	2	1	3	8
Total grants issued	25	271	51	1008	1355

Wardship and adoption

Table 23: Adoption cases and applications received

Adoption Order Application	14
Child Abduction Originating Summons	5
Children (Ni) Order Application	1
Freeing Order Application	1
Freeing Order Application	4
Human Fertilisation Originating Summons	1
Interlocutory Application	2
Wardship Originating Summons	3
Total	31

Table 24: Adoption cases and applications disposed

	High Court Judge	Master	Office disposal	Total
Adoption Order Application	13			13
Child Abduction Originating Summons	4		1	5
Freeing Order Application	1			1
Wardship Originating Summons	2	1		3
Total	20	1	1	22

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

App For Occup/Non Mol	4
App For Occup/Non Mol	2
Exparte App For Occup/Non Mol	12
F8 FVM	1
OCC FVH	1
Total	20

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

	High Court Judge	Master	Total
App For Occup/Non Mol	1		1
App For Occup/Non Mol		1	1
Exparte App For Occup/Non Mol	1	11	12
Article 23 ex-parte non-molestation and occupation	1		1
Total	3	12	15

Table 27: Time intervals in weeks

	Adoption	Family Homes And Domestic Violence
Issue to first listing	17	0
First listing to disposal	11	17
Issue to disposal	26	17

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

Divorces

Table 28: Divorce petitions received

		Filed by		Total
		Wife	Husband	
Divorce Petition	2 years with consent	168	104	272
	5 years separation	80	88	168
	Adultery	6	5	11
	Unreasonable behaviour	82	27	109
	Combination of grounds/other	50	15	65
Total		386	239	625

Table 29: Divorce petitions by type of Decree Nisi

		Found by			Total
		Wife	Husband	Both	
Decree Nisi	2 years with consent	50	29		79
	5 years separation	28	28		56
	Adultery		2		2
	Unreasonable behaviour	48	7		55
	Combination of grounds/other	48	15	4	67
Nullity	Combination of grounds/other	1			1
Judicial Separation	Combination of grounds/other	1			1
Total		176	81	4	261

Table 30: Divorce petitions by number of absolutes issued

		Found by			Total
		Wife	Husband	Both	
Divorce Petition	2 years with consent	42	24		66
	5 years separation	28	29		57
	Adultery	8	1		9
	Unreasonable behaviour	35	4		39
	Combination of grounds/other	23	16	2	41
Total		136	74	2	212

Table 31: Matrimonial applications received

Application	Combination of grounds/other	11
	Ancillary relief	158
	Matrimonial application	144
	Other	13
Total		326

Table 32: Matrimonial applications disposed

Application	Combination of grounds/other	11
	Ancillary relief	158
	Matrimonial application	144
	Other	13
Total		326

Table 33: Time intervals in weeks for divorce petitions

	Divorce Petition
Issue to first listing	41
First listing to date decree granted	9
Issue to date decree granted	51
Date decree granted to date absolute issued	10

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	2	9	5	3
First listing to disposal	34	50	10	6
Issue to disposal	36	59	15	8

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

Bails

Table 35: Number of bail applications received

Bail application	354
Bail pending appeal to county court	15
Compassionate bail application	40
Miscellaneous application	1
TIM	1
Bail variation	150
Total	561

Table 36: Number of bail applications disposed in chambers

	Granted	Other	Total
Bail application	5	1	6
Compassionate bail application	1		1
Bail variation	79	22	101
Total	85	23	108

Table 37: Number of bail applications disposed of in court

	Granted	Refused	Revoke	Other	Total
Bail application	138	154	2	26	320
Bail pending appeal to county court	2	8		1	11
Compassionate bail application	27	8		1	36
Miscellaneous application	1				1
Bail variation	23	4		2	29
Total	191	174	2	30	397

Patients

Table 38: Patients

New referrals	219
EPA applications received	113
Orders issued	315
Certificates issued	1770
Reviews completed	494
Visits	2

Official Solicitors

Table 39: Official Solicitor Office statistics

Correspondence received	3525
New Referrals	7
OCP cases – OS instructed	48
OS appointed Controller Ad interim	3
Certificates drafted	799
OS appointed Full Controller	6

Sitting days

Table 40: High Court sitting days

Children Order	71
Other Family	39
Appeals	1
Queen's Bench	140
Chancery	63
Bails	94
Crown	146
Judicial Reviews	37
Criminal Appeals	14
Civil Appeals	30
Total	635

Table 41: High Court sitting times

Children Order	172:55:00
Other family	99:05:50
Appeals	06:25:00
QueensBench	362:12:00
Chancery	180:22:00
Bails	131:56:10
Callover	00:00:00
Crown	430:09:00
Judicial reviews	83:18:00
Criminal appeals	31:35:00
Civil appeals	94:32:00
Total	1592:30:00

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