

# High Court Bulletin

## July to September 2010

*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

During Jan – Mar 2010:

### Chancery

There were 1,699 cases received into the Chancery division. In total, 56% were chancery cases, 33% were bankruptcy cases and 10% were companies' cases. There were 998 cases disposed of during the reporting period.

### Queen's Bench

There were 1,836 writs received in Queen's Bench (Fig 1). Of those, 55% were negligence cases. There were 262 default judgments, 284 office disposals and 255 court disposals for writs during the quarter. There were 88 removals and remittals applications dealt with.

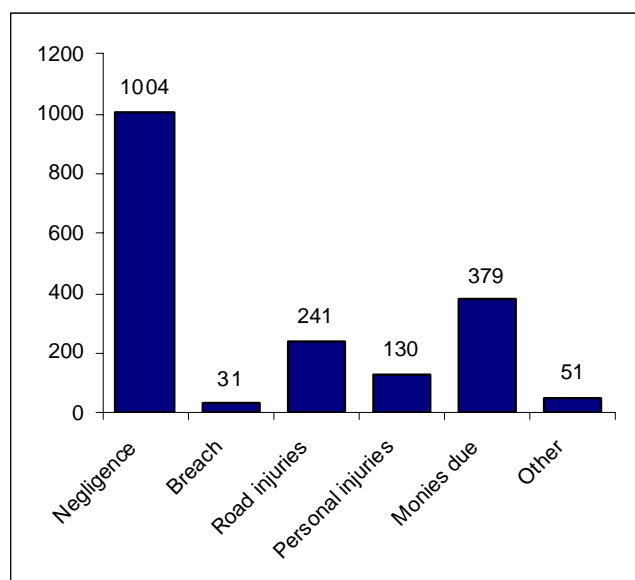
### Judicial Reviews

There were 50 applications for leave to apply for Judicial Review and 15 applications for Judicial Review received during the quarter.

### Probate

There were 1,485 grants issued during the quarter in the probate office.

Figure 1: Number of writs received by type of writ



### Wardship and Adoption

There were 16 adoption applications received and 15 adoption applications disposed of during the quarter. It took, on average, 40 weeks for an adoption application to progress through the courts.

### Matrimonial

There were 637 divorce petitions lodged in the High Court. Of these, 424 petitions were lodged by the wife. In total, 196 decrees nisi and 271 absolutes were issued.

### Patients

There were 190 new referrals in the Patients section.

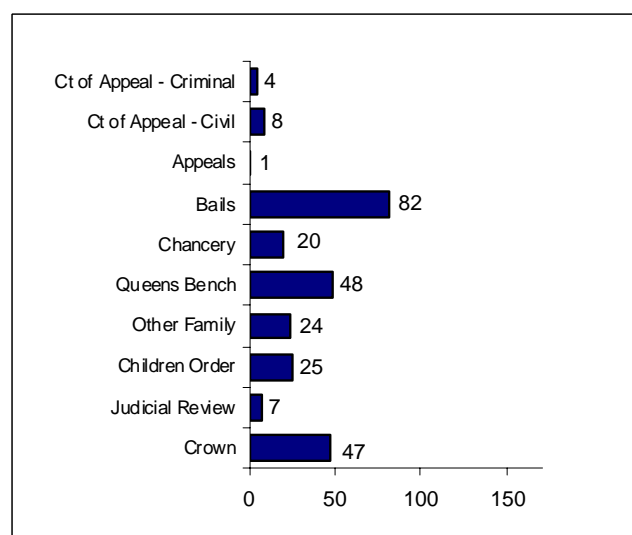
### Official Solicitors

There were 745 certificates drafted in the Official Solicitors office.

### Sitting days and times

There were 266 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

<b>Case</b>	<b>Mortgages</b>	863
	<b>Other land and property</b>	33
	<b>Trade and business</b>	2
	<b>Other</b>	60
	<b>Total</b>	958
<b>Application</b>	<b>Notice of appointment</b>	785
	<b>Summons</b>	271
	<b>Notice of motion</b>	3
	<b>Exparte application</b>	77
	<b>Injunction</b>	5
	<b>Total</b>	1141

Table 2: Chancery cases setdown

<b>Case</b>	<b>Other land and property</b>	1
	<b>Other</b>	5
	<b>Total</b>	6

**Table 3: Chancery cases and applications disposed**

		High Court Judge	Master	Office disposal	Total
<b>Case</b>	<b>Mortgages</b>		381		381
	<b>Other land and property</b>	4		2	6
	<b>Trade and business</b>	2		2	4
	<b>Other</b>	18	4	9	31
	<b>Total</b>	24	385	13	422
<b>Application</b>	<b>Notice of appointment</b>		23		23
	<b>Summons</b>	18	123		141
	<b>Notice of motion</b>	2			2
	<b>Exparte application</b>	1	104		105
	<b>Injunction</b>	2			2
	<b>Total</b>	23	250		273

## Bankruptcy

**Table 4: Bankruptcy cases and applications received**

<b>Case</b>	<b>Petition by another person</b>	300
	<b>Petition by debtor</b>	173
	<b>Other petition</b>	9
	<b>Originating application</b>	48
	<b>Other</b>	35
	<b>Total</b>	565
<b>Application</b>	<b>Notice of motion</b>	1
	<b>Ordinary application</b>	204
	<b>Certificate of automatic discharge</b>	11
	<b>Other</b>	4
	<b>Total</b>	220

**Table 5: Bankruptcy cases and applications disposed**

		<b>Master</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>Petition by another person</b>	231	231
	<b>Petition by debtor</b>	174	174
	<b>Other petition</b>	12	12
	<b>Originating application</b>	21	21
	<b>Other</b>	15	15
	<b>Total</b>	453	453
<b>Application</b>	<b>Ordinary application</b>	165	165
	<b>Certificate of automatic discharge</b>	10	10
	<b>Other</b>	1	1
	<b>Total</b>	176	176

## Companies

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

<b>Case</b>	<b>Winding up petition</b>	110
	<b>Other petitions</b>	5
	<b>Originating summons</b>	18
	<b>Other</b>	43
	<b>Total</b>	176
<b>Application</b>	<b>Notice of motion</b>	1
	<b>Ordinary application</b>	13
	<b>Total</b>	14

**Table 7: Companies cases and applications disposed**

		<b>High Court Judge</b>	<b>Master</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>Winding up petition</b>		88	88
	<b>Other petitions</b>	1	8	9
	<b>Originating summons</b>	1	9	10
	<b>Other</b>	4	12	16
	<b>Total</b>	6	117	123
<b>Application</b>	<b>Notice of motion</b>	2		2
	<b>Ordinary application</b>	3	8	11
	<b>Total</b>	5	8	13

**Table 8: Time intervals in weeks**

	<b>Chancery</b>		<b>Bankruptcy</b>		<b>Companies</b>	
	<b>Case</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>Case</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>Case</b>	<b>Application</b>
<b>Issue to first listing</b>	23	10	6	3	10	9
<b>First listing to disposal</b>	7	5	5	2	5	2
<b>Issue to disposal</b>	31	11	10	5	15	10

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

## Queens Bench

Table 9: Queen's Bench cases and applications received

Writs and originating summons	Negligence	1004
	Breach	31
	Road injuries	241
	Personal injuries	130
	Monies due	379
	Other	51
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1836</b>
Miscellaneous	Foreign judgement	112
	Other	16
	<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>
Applications	Summons/interlocutory applications	358
	Remittals and removals	153
	Exparte applications	63
	Other	100
	<b>Total</b>	<b>674</b>

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

	Unliquated	£1,000-2,999	£3,000-14,999	Over £15,000	Total
Negligence	1004				1004
Breach	31				31
Road injuries	241				241
Personal injuries	130				130
Monies due	37	7	103	232	379
Other	51				51
<b>Total</b>	<b>1494</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>1836</b>

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

	Unliquidated	£3,000-14,999	Over £15,000	Total
Negligence	284		1	285
Breach	1			1
Road injuries	34	1	1	36
Personal injuries	11			11
Monies due	1		5	6
Other	4			4
<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>343</b>

**Table 12: Queen's Bench cases and applications disposed**

		High Court Judge	Master	Office disposal	Default judgement	Total
<b>Writs and originating summons</b>	Negligence	185	3	152	13	353
	Breach	3		6	5	14
	Road injuries	27		73	4	104
	Personal injuries	13	4	40	1	58
	Monies due	5	1	5	235	246
	Other	13	1	8	4	26
	<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>801</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Foreign judgement		2			2
	Other	1				1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>3</b>
<b>Applications</b>	Summons / interlocutory applications	34	132			166
	Remittals and removals		88			88
	Exparte applications	7	36			43
	Other	39	52			91
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>308</b>			<b>388</b>

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
<b>High Court Judge</b>	<b>Negligence</b>	136	2	14	33	185
	<b>Breach</b>	2			1	3
	<b>Road injuries</b>	7	1	3	16	27
	<b>Personal injuries</b>	8	1		4	13
	<b>Monies due</b>	2		1	2	5
	<b>Other</b>	5		1	7	13
<b>Master</b>	<b>Negligence</b>	3				3
	<b>Personal injuries</b>	4				4
	<b>Monies due</b>				1	1
	<b>Other</b>	1				1
<b>Default judgement</b>	<b>Negligence</b>	13				13
	<b>Breach</b>	4			1	5
	<b>Road injuries</b>	4				4
	<b>Personal Injuries</b>	1				1
	<b>Monies due</b>	16	5	75	139	235
	<b>Other</b>	1		1	2	4
<b>Total</b>		207	9	95	206	517

**Table 14: Queen's Bench commercial actions setdown**

<b>Negligence</b>	9
<b>Breach</b>	5
<b>Monies due</b>	8
<b>Total</b>	22

**Table 15: Queen's Bench commercial actions disposed**

	High Court Judge	Office disposal	Total
<b>Negligence</b>	6		6
<b>Breach</b>	13		13
<b>Monies due</b>	8	1	9
<b>Other</b>	2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	29	2	31

**Table 16: Time intervals in weeks**

	Writs and originating summons	Commercial actions	Miscellaneous	Applications
<b>Issue to setdown</b>	89	97	.	.
<b>Issue to first listing</b>	99	72	2	6
<b>First listing to disposal</b>	31	49	18	13
<b>Issue to disposal</b>	128	121	7	13

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 17: Judicial Reviews applications received**

Application for leave to apply for judicial review	50
Application for judicial review	15

**Table 18: Judicial Reviews applications disposed**

	Granted	Withdrawn / Refused / Dismissed	Other	Total
Application for leave to apply for judicial review	12	21	5	38
Application for judicial review	3	9	7	19

**Table 19: Time intervals in weeks**

	Application for leave to apply for judicial review	Application for judicial review
Issue to first listing	7	13
First listing to disposal	16	27
Issue to disposal	21	37

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

## Probate

Table 20: Probate grants issued in non-contentious proceedings

	District registry		Probate		Northern Ireland
	By solicitor	Personal	By solicitor	Personal	
Letters of administration with will annexed		7	7	33	47
Letters of administration with will annexed (DBN)	1		1		2
Letters of administration	10	52	48	212	322
Grant of probate	14	149	53	889	1105
Letters of administration (DBN)	3	1	2	3	9
<b>Total grants issued</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>1137</b>	<b>1485</b>

## Wardship & Adoption

Table 21: Adoption cases and applications received

Adoption Order Application	11
Freeing Order Application	1
Wardship Originating Summons	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

Table 22: Adoption cases and applications disposed

	High Court Judge	Master	Total
Adoption Order Application	11		11
Freeing Order Application	2		2
Wardship Originating Summons	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>

Table 23: Family homes and domestic violence cases and applications received

Exparte App For Occup/Non Mol	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

Table 24: Family homes and domestic violence cases and applications disposed

	Master	Total
App For Occup/Non Mol	1	1
Exparte App For Occup/Non Mol	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>

Table 25: Time intervals in weeks

	Adoption	Family Homes And Domestic Violence
Issue to first listing	1	1
First listing to disposal	8	8
<b>Issue to disposal</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>

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

## Divorces

Table 26: Divorce petitions received

		Filed by			Total
		Wife	Husband	Unknown	
Divorce Petition	2 years with consent	156	80		236
	5 years separation	93	96		189
	Adultery	21	8		29
	Unreasonable behaviour	110	19	1	130
	Combination of grounds/other	44	9		53
<b>Total</b>		424	212	1	637

Table 27: Divorce petitions by type of Decree Nisi

		Found by			Total
		Wife	Husband	Both	
Decree Nisi	2 years with consent	43	23		66
	5 years separation	25	19		44
	Adultery	3	2		5
	Unreasonable behaviour	41	4		45
	Combination of grounds/other	27	5	1	33
Judicial Separation	2 years with consent	1			1
	Unreasonable behaviour	2			2
<b>Total</b>		142	53	1	196

Table 28: Divorce petitions by number of absolutes issued

		Found by			Total
		Wife	Husband	Both	
Divorce Petition	2 years with consent	62	27		89
	5 years separation	42	23		65
	Adultery	9	1		10
	Unreasonable behaviour	37	6	1	44
	Combination of grounds/other	46	17		63
<b>Total</b>		196	74	1	271

**Table 29: Matrimonial applications received**

<b>Application</b>	<b>Combination of grounds/other</b>	6
	<b>Ancillary relief</b>	135
	<b>Matrimonial application</b>	135
	<b>Other</b>	9
<b>Total</b>		285

**Table 30: Matrimonial applications disposed**

		<b>Judge</b>	<b>Master</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Application</b>	<b>Combination of grounds/other</b>	2		2
	<b>Ancillary relief</b>		70	70
	<b>Matrimonial application</b>	4	75	79
	<b>Other</b>	4	2	6
<b>Total</b>		10	147	157

**Table 31: Time intervals in weeks for divorce petitions**

	<b>Divorce Petition</b>
<b>Issue to first listing</b>	41
<b>First listing to date decree granted</b>	7
<b>Issue to date decree granted</b>	54
<b>Date decree granted to date absolute issued</b>	5

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

**Table 32: Time intervals in weeks for divorce applications**

	<b>Combination of grounds /other</b>	<b>Ancillary relief</b>	<b>Matrimonial application</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Issue to first listing</b>	0	8	11	4
<b>First listing to disposal</b>	3	56	6	36
<b>Issue to disposal</b>	3	63	17	40

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

## Bails

**Table 33: Number of bail applications received**

<b>Bail application</b>	452
<b>Bail pending appeal to county court</b>	10
<b>Compassionate bail application</b>	46
<b>Application to revoke bail</b>	4
<b>Bail variation</b>	186
<b>Total</b>	698

**Table 34: Number of bail applications disposed in chambers**

	<b>Granted</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Bail application</b>	6	1	7
<b>Bail variation</b>	110	8	118
<b>Total</b>	116	9	125

**Table 35: Number of bail applications disposed of in court**

	<b>Granted</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>Revoke</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Bail application</b>	169	221	2	14	406
<b>Bail pending appeal to county court</b>	3	3	1	1	8
<b>Compassionate bail application</b>	23	12		6	41
<b>Application to revoke bail</b>	1		2		3
<b>Bail variation</b>	32	10	1	2	45
<b>Total</b>	228	246	6	23	503

## Patients

Table 36: Patients workload figures

<b>New referrals</b>	190
<b>EPA applications received</b>	108
<b>Orders issued</b>	276
<b>Certificates issued</b>	1395
<b>Reviews completed</b>	215
<b>Visits</b>	0

## Official Solicitors

Table 37: Official Solicitors workload

<b>Correspondence received</b>	2126
<b>New Referrals</b>	20
<b>OS appointed Controller Ad interim</b>	3
<b>Certificates drafted</b>	745
<b>OS appointed Full Controller</b>	6

## Sitting Days

Table 38: High Court sitting days

Children Order	25
Other Family	24
Appeals	1
Queen's Bench	48
Chancery	20
Bails	82
Crown	47
Judicial Reviews	7
Criminal Appeals	4
Civil Appeals	8
Total	266

Table 39: High Court sitting times

Children Order	59:25:00
Other family	40:18:10
Appeals	01:55:00
Queens Bench	110:28:00
Chancery	33:05:00
Bails	175:58:15
Callover	00:00:00
Crown	96:37:00
Judicial reviews	14:35:00
Criminal appeals	08:43:00
Civil appeals	19:07:00
Sum	560:11:25

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