

High Court Bulletin

July - September 2011

serving the community through the administration of justice

Document Details

	Provisional Figures
Date issued:	18 November 2011
Document Authors:	Statistics & Research

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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

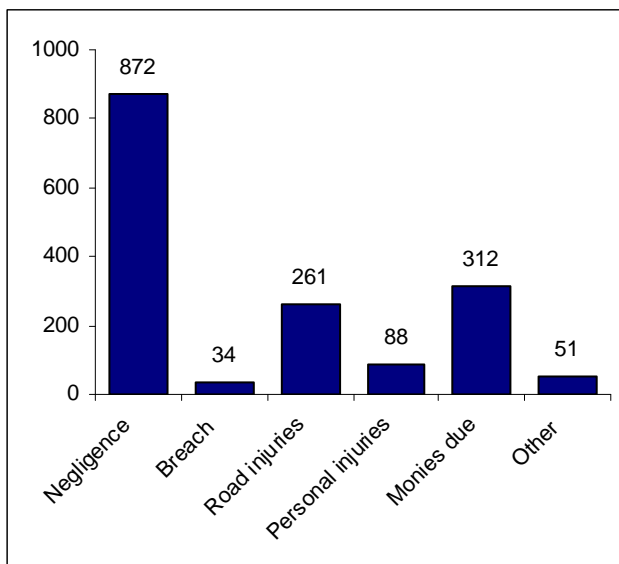
Chancery

- During July – September 2011 there were 1,948 cases received into the Chancery division (1,699 in the same period in 2010). In total, 59% were chancery cases, 32% were bankruptcy cases and 9% were companies' cases. Comparable figures were 56%, 33% and 10% respectively for the same period in 2010.
- There were 1,016 cases disposed of during July – September 2011. This represents a 2% increase from 998 cases disposed of in the same period in 2010.

Queen's Bench

- During July – September 2011 there were 1,618 writs received in Queen's Bench (1,836 in the same period in 2010). Of these, 54% were negligence cases (55% in the same period in 2010).
- There were 221 default judgments, 1,606 office disposals and 230 court disposals for writs during the quarter. (Please note that a manual exercise was carried out during the period to deal with a number of old cases which were withdrawn or settled out of court). Comparable figures were 262, 284 and 255 respectively for the same period in 2010.
- There were 60 removals and remittals applications dealt with during July – September 2011. This represents a 32% decrease from 88 in the same period in 2010.
- A breakdown of the number of writs received during July – September 2011 is outlined in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Number of writs received by type of writ



Judicial Reviews

- During July – September 2011, there were 74 applications for leave to apply for Judicial Review and 33 applications for Judicial Review received. Comparable figures were 50 and 15 respectively for the same period in 2010.

Probate

- During July – September 2011, there were 1,495 grants issued in the probate office. This compares with 1,485 for the same period in 2010.

Wardship and Adoption

- During July – September 2011, there were 24 adoption applications received and 15 adoption applications disposed of. Comparable figures were 16 and 15 respectively for the same period in 2010.
- It took, on average, 18 weeks for an adoption application to progress through the courts (40 weeks for the same period in 2010).

Matrimonial

- During July – September 2011, there were 740 divorce petitions lodged in the High Court. Of these, 508 (69%) petitions were lodged by the wife. Comparable figures were 637 and 424 (67%) respectively for the same period in 2010.
- In total, 158 decrees nisi and 258 absolutes were issued. Comparable figures were 196 and 271 respectively for the same period in 2010.

Patients

- During July – September 2011, there were 197 new referrals in the Patients section (190 for the same period in 2010).

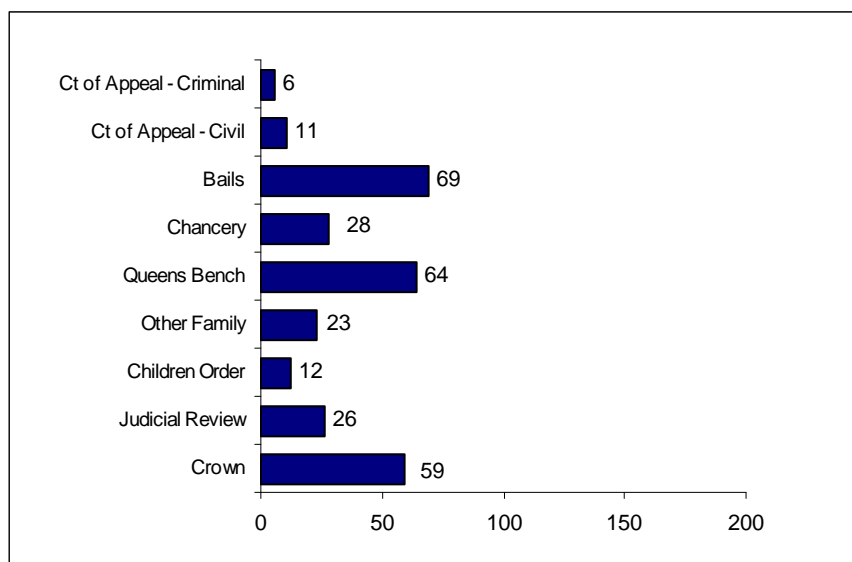
Official Solicitors

- During July – September 2011, there were 682 certificates drafted in the Official Solicitors office (745 for the same period in 2010).

Sitting days and times

- During July – September 2011, there were 298 sitting days in the High Court (266 for the same period in 2010).
- A breakdown of sitting days by business type is outlined in Figure 2 below:

Figure 2: Number of sitting days by business type



Chancery

Table 1: Chancery cases and applications received

Case	Mortgages	1063
	Other land and property	22
	Trade and business	4
	Trusts	1
	Other	58
	Total	1148
Application	Notice of appointment	921
	Summons	332
	Notice of motion	17
	Exparte application	95
	Total	1365

Table 2: Chancery cases setdown

Case	Other land and property	5
	Trade and business	1
	Other	4
	Total	10

Table 3: Chancery cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Office disposal	Total
Case	Mortgages	2	385		387
	Other land and property	8	2	1	11
	Trade and business	5		1	6
	Trusts	1			1
	Other	14	3	8	25
	Total	30	390	10	430
Application	Notice of appointment	2	36	1	39
	Summons	20	132		152
	Notice of motion	9	1		10
	Exparte application	2	87		89
	Injunction	2			2
	Total	35	256	1	292

Table 4: Bankruptcy cases and applications received

Case	Petition by another person	344
	Petition by debtor	175
	Other petition	14
	Originating application	50
	Other	33
	Total	616
Application	Notice of motion	1
	Ordinary application	248
	Certificate of automatic discharge	13
	Other	3
	Total	265

Table 5: Bankruptcy cases and applications disposed

		Master	Office disposal	Total
Case	Petition by another person	256		256
	Petition by debtor	158		158
	Other petition	13		13
	Originating application	18		18
	Other	20		20
	Total	465		465
Application	Ordinary application	179	1	180
	Certificate of automatic discharge	1	8	9
	Other	3		3
	Total	183	9	192

Table 6: Companies cases and applications received

Case	Winding up petition	95
	Other petitions	7
	Originating summons	22
	Other	60
	Total	184
Application	Notice of motion	4
	Ordinary application	11
	Other	2
	Total	17

Table 7: Companies cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Total
Case	Winding up petition		79	79
	Other petitions		7	7
	Originating summons		5	5
	Other	5	25	30
	Total	5	116	121
Application	Notice of motion		1	1
	Ordinary application	1	5	6
	Other		1	1
	Total	1	7	8

Table 8: Time intervals in weeks

	Chancery		Bankruptcy		Companies	
	Case	Application	Case	Application	Case	Application
Issue to first listing	31	7	6	3	9	4
First listing to disposal	9	7	4	3	3	6
Issue to disposal	39	11	10	5	12	10

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	872
	Breach	34
	Road injuries	261
	Personal injuries	88
	Monies due	312
	Other	51
	Total	1618
Miscellaneous	Foreign judgement	75
	Other	13
	Total	88
Applications	Summons/interlocutory applications	400
	Remittals and removals	148
	Exparte applications	83
	Other	100
	Total	731

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	872				872
Breach	33			1	34
Road injuries	259			2	261
Personal injuries	88				88
Monies due	13	4	106	189	312
Other	51				51
Total	1316	4	106	192	1618

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

	Unliquidated	£3,000-14,999	Over £15,000	Total
Negligence	354	1		355
Breach	3			3
Road injuries	34	1	3	38
Personal injuries	29	3	3	35
Monies due	1		5	6
Other	5		1	6
Total	426	5	12	443

Table 12: Queen's Bench cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Office disposal	Default judgement	Total
Writs and originating summons	Negligence	177		1435	8	1620
	Breach	4		10	2	16
	Road injuries	20	1	90	3	114
	Personal injuries	19	2	41	1	63
	Monies due	2	1	14	204	221
	Other	4		16	3	23
	Total	226	4	1606	221	2057
Miscellaneous	Foreign judgement			3		3
	Other	2				2
	Total	2		3		5
Applications	Summons/interlocutory applications	15	204			219
	Remittals and removals		60			60
	Exparte applications	7	56	2		65
	Other	40	50	1		91
	Total	62	370	3		435

Excludes commercial actions

Please note that a manual exercise was carried out during the period to deal with a number of old cases which were withdrawn or settled out of court.

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	149		9	19	177
	Breach	3			1	4
	Road injuries	2		3	15	20
	Personal injuries	14		3	2	19
	Monies due	1			1	2
	Other	2			2	4
Master	Road injuries	1				1
	Personal injuries	2				2
	Monies due	1				1
Default judgement	Negligence	8				8
	Breach	2				2
	Road injuries	3				3
	Personal injuries	1				1
	Monies due	23	3	78	100	204
	Other	2			1	3
Total		214	3	93	141	451

Excludes commercial actions

Table 14: Time intervals in weeks

	Writs and originating summons	Miscellaneous	Applications
Issue to setdown	100	.	.
Issue to first listing	104	172	7
First listing to disposal	21	2	9
Issue to disposal	125	173	10

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	9
Breach	11
Monies due	18
Other	1
Total	39

Table 16: Queen's Bench commercial actions setdown

Negligence	2
Monies due	6
Total	8

Table 17: Queen's Bench commercial actions disposed

	High Court Judge	Office disposal	Total
Negligence	10	2	12
Breach	7		7
Monies due	9	3	12
Other	1	1	2
Total	27	6	33

Table 18: Time intervals in weeks

	Commercial actions
Received to Entry to commercial list	56
Entry to commercial list to first listing	12
First listing to disposal	62
Received to disposal	131

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	74
Application for judicial review	33

Table 20: Judicial Reviews applications disposed

	Granted	Withdrawn/ Refused/ Dismissed	Other	Total
Application for leave to apply for judicial review	24	23	6	53
Application for judicial review	2	8	3	13
Ancillary applications			1	1

Table 21: Time intervals in weeks

	Application for leave to apply for judicial review	Application for judicial review	Ancillary applications
Issue to first listing	4	6	0
First listing to disposal	10	34	40
Issue to disposal	14	37	40

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	11		33	1	45
Letters of administration with will annexed (DBN)	1		1		2
Letters of administration	70	9	216	21	316
Grant of probate	191	6	856	70	1123
Letters of administration (DBN)	4		4		8
Total grants issued	278	15	1110	92	1495

Wardship and adoption

Table 23: Adoption cases and applications received

Adoption Order Application	15
Freeing Order Application	4
Interlocutory Application	4
Wardship Originating Summons	1
Total	24

Table 24: Adoption cases and applications disposed

	High Court Judge	Master	Total
Adoption Order Application	8		8
Child Abduction Originating Summons	1		1
Interlocutory Application	3		3
Wardship Originating Summons	1	2	3
Total	13	2	15

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

App For Occup/Non Mol	6
Exparte App For Occup/Non Mol	4
Total	10

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

	High Court Judge	Master	Total
App For Occup/Non Mol	1	1	2
App For Occup/Non Mol		4	4
Exparte App For Occup/Non Mol		5	5
Total	1	10	11

Table 27: Time intervals in weeks

	Adoption	Family Homes And Domestic Violence
Issue to first listing	12	1
First listing to disposal	5	23
Issue to disposal	18	24

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	Unknown	
Divorce Petition	2 years with consent	176	104		280
	5 years separation	114	85		199
	Adultery	19	6		25
	Unreasonable behaviour	138	20	1	159
	Combination of grounds/other	61	16		77
Total		508	231	1	740

Table 29: Divorce petitions by type of Decree Nisi

		Found by			Total
		Wife	Husband	Both	
Decree Nisi	2 years with consent	38	15		53
	5 years separation	17	14		31
	Adultery	3	2		5
	Unreasonable behaviour	27	4		31
	Combination of grounds/other	25	10	2	37
Nullity	Unreasonable behaviour		1		1
Total		110	46	2	158

Table 30: Divorce petitions by number of absolutes issued

		Found by			Total
		Wife	Husband	Both	
Divorce Petition	2 years with consent	56	42		98
	5 years separation	27	27		54
	Adultery	3	1		4
	Unreasonable behaviour	35	3		38
	Combination of grounds/other	50	12	2	64
Total		171	85	2	258

Table 31: Matrimonial applications received

Application	Combination of grounds/other	1
	Ancillary relief	128
	Matrimonial application	167
	Other	13
Total		309

Table 32: Matrimonial applications disposed

		Judge	Master	Total
Application	Combination of grounds/other	1		1
	Ancillary relief		79	79
	Matrimonial application	5	81	86
	Other	5		5
Total		11	160	171

Table 33: Time intervals in weeks for divorce petitions

	Divorce Petition
Issue to first listing	37
First listing to date decree granted	10
Issue to date decree granted	50
Date decree granted to date absolute issued	4

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	8	0
First listing to disposal	13	46	6	4
Issue to disposal	13	51	14	4

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	404
Bail pending appeal to county court	21
Compassionate bail application	51
Application to revoke bail	1
Bail variation	169
Total	646

Table 36: Number of bail applications disposed in chambers

	Granted	Refused	Other	Total
Bail application	1			1
Compassionate bail application	2			2
Bail variation	77	1	9	87
Total	80	1	9	90

Table 37: Number of bail applications disposed of in court

	Granted	Refused	Revoke	Other	Total
Bail application	173	189	1	16	379
Bail pending appeal to county court	9	8		1	18
Compassionate bail application	40	8		3	51
Bail variation	32	7		2	41
Total	254	212	1	22	489

Patients

Table 38: Patients workload figures

New referrals	197
EPA applications received	136
Orders issued	269
Certificates issued	1862
Reviews completed	500
Visits	5

Official Solicitors Office

Table 39: Official Solicitor Statistics

Correspondence received	2797
New Referrals	7
OCP cases – OS instructed	53
OS appointed Controller Ad interim	1
Certificates drafted	682
OS appointed Full Controller	3

Sitting days and times

Table 40: High Court sitting days

Children Order	12
Other Family	23
Queen's Bench	64
Chancery	28
Bails	69
Crown	59
Judicial Reviews	26
Criminal Appeals	6
Civil Appeals	11
Total	298

Table 41: High Court sitting times

Children Order	25:55:00
Other family	48:15:00
Appeals	01:40:00
Queens Bench	139:03:00
Chancery	104:11:00
Bails	149:23:10
Crown	195:18:00
Judicial reviews	81:20:00
Criminal appeals	11:43:00
Civil appeals	14:26:00
Total	771:14:10

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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