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The Northern Ireland Court Service

# High Court Bulletin

Oct - Dec 2009

(Provisional figures)



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Northern Ireland  
Statistics &  
Research  
Agency

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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 Oct - Dec 2009:

## Chancery

There were 1,632 cases received into the Chancery division. In total, 63% were chancery cases, 29% were bankruptcy cases and 8% were companies' cases. There were 1,694 cases disposed of during the reporting period.

## Queen's Bench

There were 1,952 writs received in Queen's Bench (Fig 1). Of those, 61% were negligence cases. There were 252 default judgments, 310 office disposals and 510 court disposals for writs during the quarter. There were 151 removals and remittals applications dealt with.

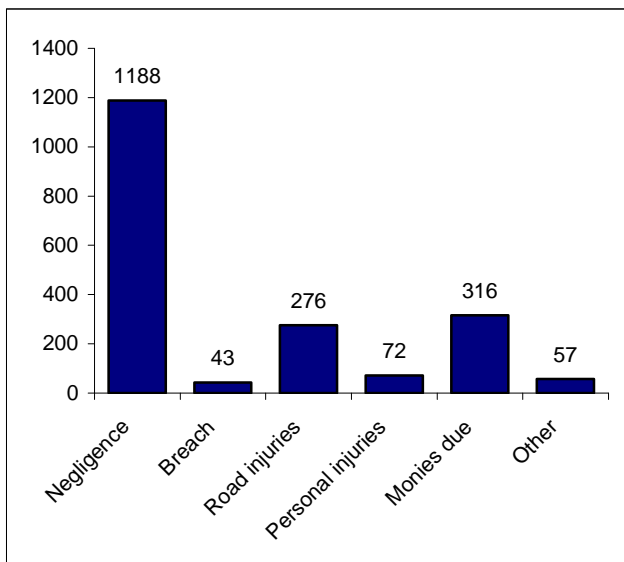
## Judicial Reviews

There were 62 applications for leave to apply for Judicial Review and 34 applications for Judicial Review received during the quarter. Of the 21 applications for Judicial Review disposed of during the quarter, 4 were granted.

## Probate

There were 1,465 grants issued during the quarter in the probate office.

**Figure 1: Number of writs received by type of writ**



## Wardship and Adoption

There were 28 adoption applications received and 42 adoption applications disposed of during the quarter. It took, on average, 30 weeks for an adoption application to progress through the courts.

## Matrimonial

There were 673 divorce petitions lodged in the High Court. Of these, 423 petitions were lodged by the wife. In total, 331 decrees nisi and 219 absolutes were issued.

## Patients

There were 222 new referrals in the Patients section.

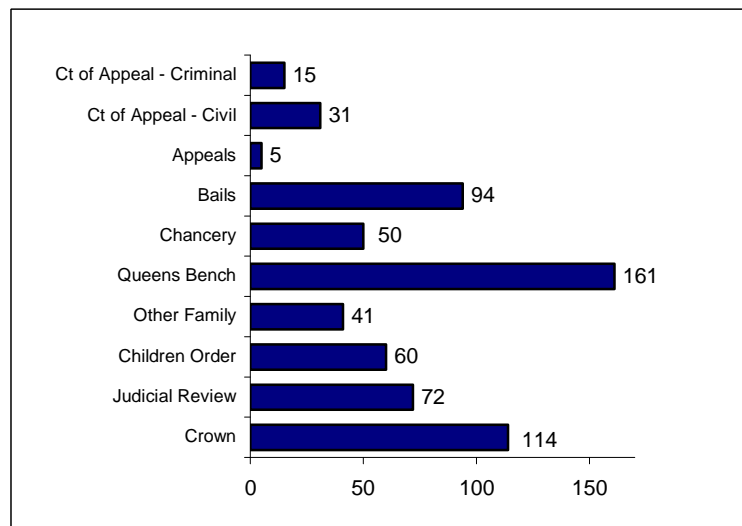
## Official Solicitors

There were 598 certificates drafted in the Official Solicitors office.

## Sitting days and times

There were 643 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>	807
	<b>Other land and property</b>	35
	<b>Trade and business</b>	11
	<b>Trusts</b>	4
	<b>Other</b>	164
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1021</b>
<b>Application</b>	<b>Notice of appointment</b>	881
	<b>Summons</b>	218
	<b>Notice of motion</b>	15
	<b>Exparte application</b>	61
	<b>Injunction</b>	9
	<b>Transfer to Commercial List</b>	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1185</b>

Table 2: Chancery cases setdown

<b>Case</b>	<b>Other land and property</b>	8
	<b>Trade and business</b>	2
	<b>Other</b>	20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

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Table 3: Chancery cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Office disposal	Total
Case	Mortgages	1	871		872
	Other land and property	18	2	1	21
	Trade and business	3			3
	Trusts	1			1
	Other	46	5	3	54
	<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>951</b>
Application	Notice of appointment		48		48
	Summons	67	140		207
	Notice of motion	5		1	6
	Exparte application	3	54		57
	Injunction	2			2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>320</b>

Table 4: Bankruptcy cases and applications received

Case	Petition by another person	229
	Petition by debtor	160
	Other petition	3
	Originating application	58
	Other	28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>478</b>
Application	Notice of motion	3
	Ordinary application	248
	Certificate of automatic discharge	7
	Other	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>259</b>

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Table 5: Bankruptcy cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Total
Case	Petition by another person		361	361
	Petition by debtor		192	192
	Other petition		1	1
	Originating application		32	32
	Other		25	25
	<b>Total</b>			<b>611</b>
Application	Notice of motion		1	1
	Ordinary application	1	199	200
	Certificate of automatic discharge		5	5
	Other		3	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>209</b>

Table 6: Companies cases and applications  
received

Case	Winding up petition	99
	Other petitions	3
	Originating summons	23
	Other	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>
Application	Notice of motion	5
	Ordinary application	8
	Other	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

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Table 7: Companies cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Total
Case	Winding up petition	3	112	115
	Other petitions		1	1
	Originating summons	2	8	10
	Other	4	2	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>132</b>
Application	Notice of motion		1	1
	Ordinary application		1	1
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

Table 8: Time intervals in weeks

	Chancery		Bankruptcy		Companies	
	Case	Application	Case	Application	Case	Application
Issue to first listing	25	9	7	3	10	3
First listing to disposal	5	3	4	2	5	0
Issue to disposal	31	10	11	6	14	3

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	1188
	Breach	43
	Road injuries	276
	Personal injuries	72
	Monies due	316
	Other	57
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1952</b>
Miscellaneous	Foreign judgement	68
	Other	36
	<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>
Applications	Summons/interlocutory applications	548
	Remittals and removals	151
	Exparte applications	87
	Other	153
	<b>Total</b>	<b>939</b>

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

	Unliquidated	Less than £1,000	£1,000-2,999	£3,000-14,999	Over £15,000	Total
<b>Negligence</b>	1188					<b>1188</b>
<b>Breach</b>	40				3	<b>43</b>
<b>Road injuries</b>	274				2	<b>276</b>
<b>Personal injuries</b>	72					<b>72</b>
<b>Monies due</b>	19	1	12	64	220	<b>316</b>
<b>Other</b>	57					<b>57</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1650</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>1952</b>

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

	Unliquidated	£3,000-14,999	Over £15,000	Total
Negligence	345	1	1	347
Breach	6			6
Road injuries	109	1	4	114
Personal injuries	35	1	3	39
Monies due	3		6	9
Other	8		1	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>524</b>

Table 12: Queen's Bench cases and applications disposed

		High Court Judge	Master	Office disposal	Default judgement	Total
Writs and originating summons	Negligence	284	10	148	9	451
	Breach	8		3	5	16
	Road injuries	120	3	84	7	214
	Personal injuries	41		38	1	80
	Monies due	2		12	228	242
	Other	37	5	25	2	69
	<b>Total</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>1072</b>
Miscellaneous	Foreign judgement		7			7
	Other		1			1
	<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>			<b>8</b>
Applications	Summons/interlocutory applications	30	501			531
	Remittals and removals		151			151
	Exparte applications	12	48			60
	Other	68	79			147
	<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>779</b>			<b>889</b>

Excludes commercial actions

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

		Unliquida ted	Less than £1,000	£1,000- 2,999	£3,000- 14,999	Over £15,000	Total
High Court Judge	Negligence	163		3	57	61	284
	Breach	5				3	8
	Road injuries	19			25	76	120
	Personal injuries	27			4	10	41
	Monies due					2	2
	Other	23			3	11	37
Master	Negligence	9			1		10
	Road injuries	2			1		3
	Other	5					5
Default judgement	Negligence	9					9
	Breach	4				1	5
	Road injuries	6				1	7
	Personal injuries	1					1
	Monies due	13	1	5	70	139	228
	Other	2					2
<b>Total</b>		<b>288</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>762</b>

Excludes commercial actions

Table 14: Queen's Bench  
commercial actions setdown

Negligence	6
Breach	5
Personal injuries	1
Monies due	5
Other	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>

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Table 15: Queen's Bench commercial actions disposed

	High Court Judge	Total
Negligence	5	5
Breach	12	12
Monies due	15	15
Other	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>

Table 16: Time intervals in weeks

	Writs and originating summons	Commercial actions	Miscellaneous	Applications
Issue to setdown	100	132	.	.
Issue to first listing	102	119	.	5
First listing to disposal	24	56	.	5
Issue to disposal	125	173	1	8

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	62
Application for judicial review	34

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Table 18: Judicial Reviews applications disposed

	Granted	Withdrawn /Refused/ Dismissed	Other	Total
Application for leave to apply for judicial review	15	28	15	58
Application for judicial review	4	13	4	21

Table 19: Time intervals in weeks

	Application for leave to apply for judicial review	Application for judicial review
Issue to first listing	2	9
First listing to disposal	6	19
Issue to disposal	7	27

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	By solicitor	
Grant of administration		1	1
Letters of administration with will annexed	6	30	36
Letters of administration with will annexed (DBN)	3	1	4
Letters of administration	78	243	321
Grant of probate	208	887	1095
Letters of administration (DBN)	2	6	8
Total grants issued	297	1168	1465

## Wardship and adoption

**Table 21: Adoption cases and applications received**

Adoption Order Application	13
Child Abduction Originating Summons	1
Freeing Order Application	3
Originating Summons (General)	1
Interlocutory Application	6
Wardship Originating Summons	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

**Table 22: Adoption cases and applications disposed**

	High Court Judge	Master	Total
Adoption Order Application	27		27
Child Abduction Originating Summons	3		3
Freeing Order Application	7		7
Originating Summons (General)	2		2
Interlocutory Application	2		2
Wardship Originating Summons		1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>42</b>

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

App For Occup/Non Mol	1
Exparte App For Occup/Non Mol	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

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

	High Court Judge	Master	Total
App For Occup/Non Mol	3	6	9
Exparte App For Occup/Non Mol	6	9	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>

**Table 25: Time intervals in weeks**

	Adoption	Family Homes And Domestic Violence
Issue to first listing	22	1
First listing to disposal	7	28
Issue to disposal	30	29

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

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Table 26: Divorce petitions received

		Filed by			Total
		Wife	Husband	Unknown	
Divorce Petition	2 years with consent	161	114	1	276
	5 years separation	86	89		175
	Adultery	18	5		23
	Unreasonable behaviour	117	30		147
	Combination of grounds/other	41	11		52
<b>Total</b>		<b>423</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>673</b>

Table 27: Divorce petitions by type of Decree Nisi

		Found by			Total
		Wife	Husband	Both	
Decree Nisi	2 years with consent	65	43		108
	5 years separation	31	31		62
	Adultery	7	4		11
	Unreasonable behaviour	52	9		61
	Combination of grounds/other	63	21	5	89
Judicial Separation	5 years separation	1			1
	Combination of grounds/other	1			1
<b>Total</b>		<b>220</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>333</b>

Table 28: Divorce petitions by number of absolutes issued

		Found by			Total
		Wife	Husband	Both	
Divorce Petition	2 years with consent	45	30		75
	5 years separation	33	20		53
	Adultery	3	2		5
	Unreasonable behaviour	38	3		41
	Combination of grounds/other	36	6	3	45
<b>Total</b>		<b>155</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>219</b>

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Table 29: Matrimonial applications received

Application	Combination of grounds/other	5
	Ancillary relief	123
	Matrimonial application	187
	Other	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>328</b>

Table 30: Matrimonial applications disposed

		Judge	Master	Total
Application	Combination of grounds/other	5		5
	Ancillary relief	2	139	141
	Matrimonial application	13	129	142
	Other	6	2	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>296</b>

Table 31: Time intervals in weeks for divorce petitions

	Divorce Petition
Issue to first listing	42
First listing to date decree granted	8
Issue to date decree granted	51
Date decree granted to date absolute issued	9

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

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Table 32: Time intervals in weeks for divorce applications

	Combination of grounds/other	Ancillary relief	Matrimonial application	Other
Issue to first listing	0	7	4	2
First listing to disposal	29	48	4	2
Issue to disposal	29	54	8	4

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

## High Court Bails

Table 33: Number of bail applications received

Bail application	393
Bail pending appeal to county court	6
Compassionate bail application	53
Application to revoke bail	2
TIM	2
Bail variation	153
<b>Total</b>	<b>609</b>

Table 34: Number of bail applications disposed in chambers

	Granted	Refused	Other	Total
Bail application	7	3		10
Compassionate bail application		1		1
Bail variation	90	1	13	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>115</b>

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Table 35: Number of bail applications disposed of in court

	Granted	Refused	Revoke	Other	Total
Bail application	143	189		20	352
Bail pending appeal to county court	3	4			7
Compassionate bail application	20	23	1	1	45
Application to revoke bail	1				1
Bail variation	39	7		1	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>452</b>

## Patients

Table 36: Patients

New referrals	222
EPA applications received	69
Orders issued	230
Certificates issued	1320
Reviews completed	169
Visits	1

## Official Solicitors Office

Table 37: Official Solicitor Office statistics

Correspondence received	1919
New Referrals	3
Cases OS assisting OCP	24
OS appointed Controller Ad interim	5
Certificates drafted	598
OS appointed Full Controller	4

## Sitting days and times

Table 38: High Court sitting days

Children Order	60
Other Family	41
Appeals	5
Queen's Bench	161
Chancery	50
Bails	94
Crown	114
Judicial Reviews	72
Criminal Appeals	15
Civil Appeals	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>

Table 39: High Court sitting times

Children Order	162:25:00
Other family	80:46:20
Appeals	7:20:00
Queens Bench	493:17:34
Chancery	160:22:00
Bails	181:12:10
Callover	0:00:00
Crown	366:48:00
Judicial reviews	122:29:00
Criminal appeals	20:30:00
Civil appeals	57:55:00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1653:05:04</b>