

High Court Bulletin

October to December 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 October - December 2010:

Chancery

There were 1,657 cases received into the Chancery division. In total, 56% were chancery cases, 33% were bankruptcy cases and 10% were companies' cases. There were 1,707 cases disposed of during the reporting period.

Queen's Bench

There were 1,754 writs received in Queen's Bench (Fig 1). Of those, 57% were negligence cases. There were 253 default judgments, 331 office disposals and 648 court disposals for writs during the quarter. There were 203 removals and remittals applications dealt with.

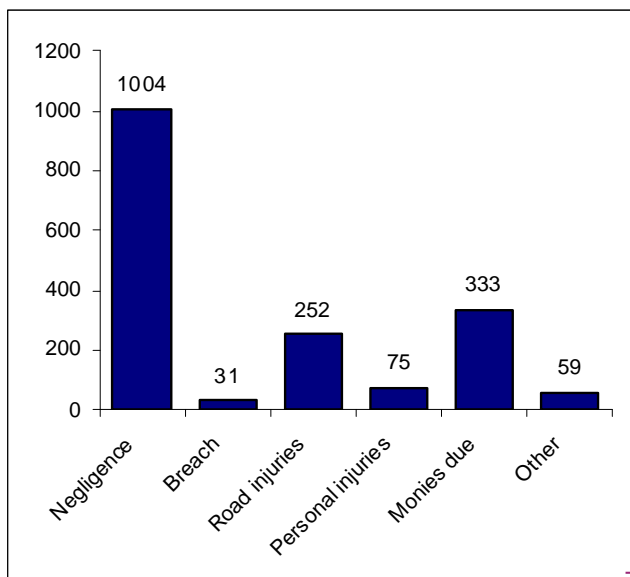
Judicial Reviews

There were 66 applications for leave to apply for Judicial Review and 23 applications for Judicial Review received during the quarter.

Probate

There were 1,505 grants issued during the quarter in the probate office.

Figure 1: Number of writs received by type of writ



Wardship and Adoption

There were 15 adoption applications received and 32 adoption applications disposed of during the quarter. It took, on average, 31 weeks for an adoption application to progress through the courts.

Matrimonial

There were 624 divorce petitions lodged in the High Court. Of these, 396 petitions were lodged by the wife. In total, 385 decrees nisi and 268 absolutes were issued.

Patients

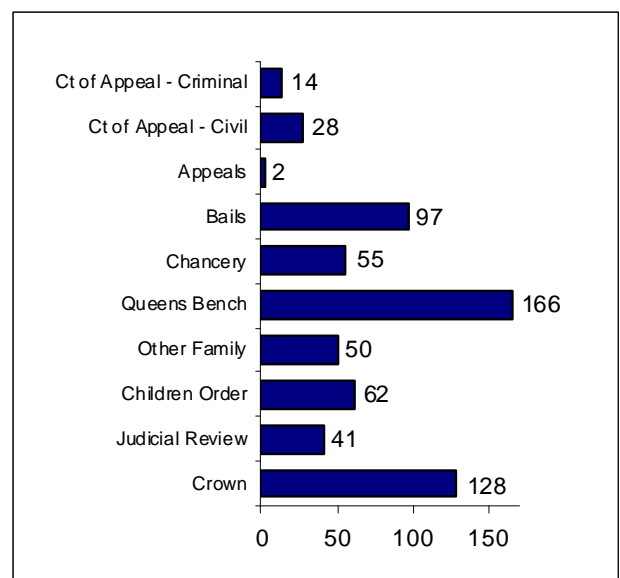
There were 214 new referrals in the Patients section.

Official Solicitors

There were 659 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).



Chancery

Table 1: Chancery cases and applications received

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|------|
| Case | Mortgages | 825 |
| | Other land and property | 18 |
| | Trade and business | 4 |
| | Trusts | 4 |
| | Other | 80 |
| | Total | 931 |
| Application | Notice of appointment | 868 |
| | Summons | 286 |
| | Notice of motion | 20 |
| | Exparte application | 80 |
| | Injunction | 9 |
| | Total | 1263 |

Table 2: Chancery cases setdown

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|----|
| Case | Other land and property | 3 |
| | Trade and business | 1 |
| | Trusts | 1 |
| | Other | 10 |
| | Total | 15 |

Table 3: Chancery cases and applications disposed

| | | High Court Judge | Master | Office disposal | Total |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------|--------------------|-------|
| Case | Mortgages | 3 | 869 | 1 | 873 |
| | Other land and property | 18 | 3 | 2 | 23 |
| | Trade and business | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| | Other | 46 | | 3 | 49 |
| | Total | 68 | 872 | 7 | 947 |
| Application | Notice of appointment | 1 | 27 | 4 | 32 |
| | Summons | 63 | 221 | 2 | 286 |
| | Notice of motion | 6 | 2 | | 8 |
| | Exparte application | 6 | 64 | | 70 |
| | Injunction | 8 | | | 8 |
| | Total | 84 | 314 | 6 | 404 |

Bankruptcy

Table 4: Bankruptcy cases and applications received

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Case | Petition by another person | 248 |
| | Petition by debtor | 188 |
| | Other petition | 24 |
| | Originating application | 54 |
| | Other | 41 |
| | Total | 555 |
| Application | Notice of motion | 1 |
| | Ordinary application | 187 |
| | Certificate of automatic discharge | 10 |
| | Other | 7 |
| | Total | 205 |

Table 5: Bankruptcy cases and applications disposed

| | | High Court Judge | Master | Office disposal | Total |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Case | Petition by another person | 1 | 322 | | 323 |
| | Petition by debtor | | 187 | | 187 |
| | Other petition | | 19 | | 19 |
| | Originating application | 1 | 36 | | 37 |
| | Other | | 34 | 2 | 36 |
| | Total | 2 | 598 | 2 | 602 |
| Application | Ordinary application | | 162 | | 162 |
| | Certificate of automatic discharge | | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| | Other | | 4 | | 4 |
| | Total | | 168 | 7 | 175 |

Companies

Table 6: Companies cases and applications received

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| Case | Winding up petition | 92 |
| | Other petitions | 11 |
| | Originating summons | 25 |
| | Other | 43 |
| | Total | 171 |
| Application | Notice of motion | 3 |
| | Ordinary application | 13 |
| | Other | 1 |
| | Total | 17 |

Table 7: Companies cases and applications disposed

| | | High Court Judge | Master | Total |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Case | Winding up petition | | 100 | 100 |
| | Other petitions | | 8 | 8 |
| | Originating summons | 5 | 15 | 20 |
| | Other | 5 | 25 | 30 |
| | Total | 10 | 148 | 158 |
| Application | Notice of motion | | 1 | 1 |
| | Ordinary application | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| | Other | 1 | | 1 |
| | Total | 3 | 9 | 12 |

Table 8: Time intervals in weeks

| | Chancery | | Bankruptcy | | Companies | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | Case | Application | Case | Application | Case | Application |
| Issue to first listing | 21 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 2 |
| First listing to disposal | 7 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| Issue to disposal | 29 | 11 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 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 | 252 |
| | Personal injuries | 75 |
| | Monies due | 333 |
| | Other | 59 |
| | Total | 1754 |
| Miscellaneous | Foreign judgement | 81 |
| | Other | 14 |
| | Total | 95 |
| Applications | Summons/interlocutory applications | 524 |
| | Remittals and removals | 181 |
| | Exparte applications | 81 |
| | Other | 183 |
| | Total | 969 |

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 |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------|
| Negligence | 1002 | | | 1 | 1 | 1004 |
| Breach | 31 | | | | | 31 |
| Road injuries | 252 | | | | | 252 |
| Personal injuries | 75 | | | | | 75 |
| Monies due | 21 | 2 | 9 | 89 | 212 | 333 |
| Other | 59 | | | | | 59 |
| Total | 1440 | 2 | 9 | 90 | 213 | 1754 |

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

| | Unliquidated | Over £15,000 | Total |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Negligence | 287 | 1 | 288 |
| Breach | 3 | | 3 |
| Road injuries | 48 | 1 | 49 |
| Personal injuries | 12 | 1 | 13 |
| Monies due | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Other | 8 | | 8 |
| Total | 360 | 4 | 364 |

Table 12: Queen's Bench cases and applications disposed

| | | High Court Judge | Master | Office disposal | Default judgement | Total |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------|--------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|
| Writs and originating summons | Negligence | 483 | 10 | 172 | 12 | 677 |
| | Breach | 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 16 |
| | Road injuries | 78 | 4 | 60 | 8 | 150 |
| | Personal injuries | 35 | 2 | 72 | 2 | 111 |
| | Monies due | 7 | 2 | 15 | 214 | 238 |
| | Other | 20 | 1 | 9 | 10 | 40 |
| | Total | 627 | 21 | 331 | 253 | 1232 |
| Miscellaneous | Foreign judgement | | 3 | | | 3 |
| | Other | 1 | | 2 | | 3 |
| | Total | 1 | 3 | 2 | | 6 |
| Applications | Summons / interlocutory applications | 48 | 546 | | | 594 |
| | Remittals and removals | 1 | 202 | | | 203 |
| | Exparte applications | 8 | 51 | | | 59 |
| | Other | 85 | 91 | | | 176 |
| | Total | 142 | 890 | | | 1032 |

Excludes commercial actions

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

| | | Unliquidated | Less than £1,000 | £1,000-2,999 | £3,000-14,999 | Over £15,000 | Total |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------|
| High Court Judge | Negligence | 390 | | 4 | 25 | 64 | 483 |
| | Breach | 3 | | | 1 | | 4 |
| | Road injuries | 6 | | | 17 | 55 | 78 |
| | Personal injuries | 22 | | | 6 | 7 | 35 |
| | Monies due | 4 | | | | 3 | 7 |
| | Other | 12 | 1 | | 1 | 6 | 20 |
| Master | Negligence | 9 | | | 1 | | 10 |
| | Breach | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | Road injuries | 4 | | | | | 4 |
| | Personal injuries | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| | Monies due | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| | Other | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Default judgement | Negligence | 11 | | | 1 | | 12 |
| | Breach | 4 | | | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| | Road injuries | 8 | | | | | 8 |
| | Personal Injuries | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| | Monies due | 9 | | 6 | 74 | 125 | 214 |
| | Other | 8 | | 1 | 1 | | 10 |
| Total | | 498 | 1 | 11 | 128 | 263 | 901 |

Excludes commercial actions

Table 14: Queen's Bench commercial actions setdown

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Negligence | 7 |
| Breach | 4 |
| Monies due | 18 |
| Other | 2 |
| Total | 31 |

Table 15: Queen's Bench commercial actions disposed

| | High Court Judge | Office disposal | Total |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Negligence | 17 | | 17 |
| Breach | 12 | 1 | 13 |
| Monies due | 25 | 1 | 26 |
| Other | 3 | | 3 |
| Total | 57 | 2 | 59 |

Table 16: Time intervals in weeks

| | Writs and originating summons | Commercial actions | Miscellaneous | Applications |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Issue to setdown | 98 | 127 | . | . |
| Issue to first listing | 108 | 86 | 2 | 5 |
| First listing to disposal | 25 | 59 | 19 | 7 |
| Issue to disposal | 131 | 148 | 6 | 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

Judicial Reviews

Table 17: Judicial Reviews applications received

| | |
|--|----|
| Application for leave to apply for judicial review | 66 |
| Application for judicial review | 23 |
| Ancillary applications | 1 |

Table 18: Judicial Reviews applications disposed

| | Granted | Withdrawn / Refused / Dismissed | Other | Total |
|--|---------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Application for leave to apply for judicial review | 20 | 22 | 15 | 57 |
| Application for judicial review | 4 | 14 | 6 | 24 |

Table 19: Time intervals in weeks

| | Application for leave to apply for judicial review | Application for judicial review |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Issue to first listing | 2 | 12 |
| First listing to disposal | 16 | 26 |
| Issue to disposal | 15 | 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 | | 10 | | 30 | 40 |
| Letters of administration with will annexed (DBN) | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Letters of administration | 11 | 56 | 27 | 234 | 328 |
| Grant of probate | 10 | 206 | 31 | 881 | 1128 |
| Letters of administration (DBN) | 1 | | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| Total grants issued | 22 | 272 | 61 | 1150 | 1505 |

Wardship & Adoption

Table 21: Adoption cases and applications received

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Adoption Order Application | 9 |
| Child Abduction Originating Summons | 4 |
| Freeing Order Application | 1 |
| Wardship Originating Summons | 1 |
| Total | 15 |

Table 22: Adoption cases and applications disposed

| | High Court Judge | Master | Total |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------|-----------|
| Adoption Order Application | 23 | | 23 |
| Child Abduction Originating Summons | 3 | | 3 |
| Freeing Order Application | 3 | | 3 |
| Wardship Originating Summons | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Total | 31 | 1 | 32 |

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

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Exparte App For Occup/Non Mol | 12 |
| App to Extend/Discharge/Vary Occup/Non Mol | 1 |
| Total | 13 |

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

| | High Court Judge | Master | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| App For Occup/Non Mol | 1 | | 1 |
| Exparte App For Occup/Non Mol | | 11 | 11 |
| Total | 1 | 11 | 12 |

Table 25: Time intervals in weeks

| | Adoption | Family Homes And Domestic Violence |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Issue to first listing | 18 | 0 |
| First listing to disposal | 13 | 11 |
| Issue to disposal | 31 | 11 |

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 | |
| Divorce Petition | 2 years with consent | 142 | 102 | 244 |
| | 5 years separation | 87 | 78 | 165 |
| | Adultery | 15 | 9 | 24 |
| | Unreasonable behaviour | 109 | 26 | 135 |
| | Combination of grounds/other | 43 | 13 | 56 |
| Total | | 396 | 228 | 624 |

Table 27: Divorce petitions by type of Decree Nisi

| | | Found by | | | Total |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|------------|
| | | Wife | Husband | Both | |
| Decree Nisi | 2 years with consent | 69 | 43 | | 112 |
| | 5 years separation | 47 | 44 | | 91 |
| | Adultery | 6 | 1 | | 7 |
| | Unreasonable behaviour | 76 | 8 | 1 | 85 |
| | Combination of grounds/other | 52 | 28 | 7 | 87 |
| Nullity | Combination of grounds/other | | 1 | | 1 |
| Judicial Separation | Unreasonable behaviour | 2 | | | 2 |
| Total | | 252 | 125 | 8 | 385 |

Table 28: Divorce petitions by number of absolutes issued

| | | Found by | | | Total |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| | | Wife | Husband | Both | |
| Divorce Petition | 2 years with consent | 58 | 40 | | 98 |
| | 5 years separation | 37 | 26 | | 63 |
| | Adultery | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| | Unreasonable behaviour | 45 | 5 | | 50 |
| | Combination of grounds/other | 37 | 16 | 1 | 54 |
| Total | | 179 | 88 | 1 | 268 |

Table 29: Matrimonial applications received

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Application | Combination of grounds/other | 4 |
| | Ancillary relief | 175 |
| | Matrimonial application | 144 |
| | Other | 6 |
| Total | | 329 |

Table 30: Matrimonial applications disposed

| | | Judge | Master | Total |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Application | Combination of grounds/other | | 1 | 1 |
| | Ancillary relief | 1 | 159 | 160 |
| | Matrimonial application | 4 | 165 | 169 |
| | Other | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | | 6 | 326 | 332 |

Table 31: Time intervals in weeks for divorce petitions

| | Divorce Petition |
|--|-------------------------|
| Issue to first listing | 36 |
| First listing to date decree granted | 2 |
| Issue to date decree granted | 41 |
| 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 32: Time intervals in weeks for divorce applications

| | Combination of grounds /other | Ancillary relief | Matrimonial application | Other |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Issue to first listing | 1 | 8 | 5 | 8 |
| First listing to disposal | 36 | 47 | 7 | 0 |
| Issue to disposal | 37 | 55 | 12 | 8 |

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

| | |
|--|-----|
| Bail application | 437 |
| Bail pending appeal to county court | 7 |
| Compassionate bail application | 43 |
| Application to revoke bail | 2 |
| Bail variation | 164 |
| Total | 653 |

Table 34: Number of bail applications disposed in chambers

| | Granted | Refused | Other | Total |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Bail application | 5 | 1 | | 6 |
| Bail variation | 90 | 2 | 33 | 125 |
| Total | 95 | 3 | 33 | 131 |

Table 35: Number of bail applications disposed of in court

| | Granted | Refused | Revoke | Other | Total |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Bail application | 165 | 214 | 1 | 17 | 397 |
| Bail pending appeal to county court | 4 | 2 | | | 6 |
| Compassionate bail application | 24 | 12 | | 3 | 39 |
| Application to revoke bail | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Bail variation | 35 | 9 | | 4 | 48 |
| Total | 229 | 237 | 1 | 24 | 491 |

Patients

Table 36: Patients workload figures

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| New referrals | 214 |
| EPA applications received | 95 |
| Orders issued | 220 |
| Certificates issued | 1503 |
| Reviews completed | 276 |
| Visits | 0 |

Official Solicitors

Table 37: Official Solicitors workload

| | |
|---|------|
| Correspondence received | 3084 |
| New Referrals | 4 |
| OCP cases – OS instructed | 54 |
| OS appointed Controller Ad interim | 3 |
| Certificates drafted | 659 |
| OS appointed Full Controller | 2 |

Sitting Days

Table 38: High Court sitting days

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Children Order | 62 |
| Other Family | 50 |
| Appeals | 2 |
| Queen's Bench | 166 |
| Chancery | 55 |
| Bails | 97 |
| Crown | 128 |
| Judicial Reviews | 41 |
| Criminal Appeals | 14 |
| Civil Appeals | 28 |
| Total | 643 |

Table 39: High Court sitting times

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Children Order | 136:40:00 |
| Other family | 105:12:30 |
| Appeals | 07:45:00 |
| Queens Bench | 510:42:00 |
| Chancery | 151:05:00 |
| Bails | 191:42:20 |
| Callover | 00:00:00 |
| Crown | 340:03:00 |
| Judicial reviews | 103:26:00 |
| Criminal appeals | 22:52:00 |
| Civil appeals | 52:12:00 |
| Sum | 1621:39:50 |

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