

Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service Provisional Figures

April to June 2025

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This bulletin is available on the [Department of Justice](#) website on the [NICTS Business Data](#) page.

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1

Key Findings

This report provides an overview of Children Order and County, Crown, High and Magistrates' Courts business during April to June 2025 and how it compares with the comparative figures for the same quarter in the previous year. The headline findings are summarised below -

- During the quarter there were 414 Children Order sittings (1,038 total hours sat), 1,164 Children Order applications received and 1,121 disposed. In terms of orders made, 345 were own motion, 2,276 were interim and 1,608 were final orders.
- County Court and District Judges sat a total of 1,308 days within the Crown and County Court. In terms of cases received, there were; 38 equity, 176 ejectment, 2,393 small claims and one criminal damage. In terms of cases disposed; 42 were equity, 163 ejectment, 2,125 small claims and one criminal damage.
- In terms of Crown Court business there were 837 sittings with 415 cases and 495 defendants received and 449 cases and 569 defendants disposed.
- There were 534 High Court sitting days. The highest proportion of these was spent on Bails business (22%). There were 1,471 writs and originating summons received and 768 disposed.
- Within the 1,047 Magistrates' sitting days total, 73% were adult criminal, 6% were youth criminal and 21% were civil and family days. There were 783 civil and family applications and 9,177 adult and 235 youth defendants received; corresponding disposals were 715, 8,523 and 241 respectively.

2 | Introduction

About this report

This bulletin is produced in accordance with the pillars and principles set out in the Code of Practice for Statistics. It presents the following statistics for the Northern Ireland Court and Tribunals Service for the quarter April to June 2025 –

- The number of Children Order applications received and disposed at Family Proceedings Courts, Family Care Centres and the High Court, together with waiting times from lodgment to disposal (section 3);
- Civil and family business received and disposed, waiting times and sitting days in County Courts (section 4);
- The number of cases and defendants received and disposed, waiting times, pleas and findings and sittings at the Crown Court (section 5);
- Business received and disposed, waiting times and sitting days in the Chancery, King’s Bench and Family Divisions of the High Court (section 6); and
- The number of youth and adult defendants received and disposed, charges and outcomes, sittings, civil applications received and disposed and waiting times at Magistrates’ Courts (section 7).

Comparative information for the same quarter in the previous year is also provided, along with an indication of whether any change is higher or lower.

It is important to note court activity during 2020 and 2021 was severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time the courts made more use of remote audio and video technology.

It should also be noted that Crown Court figures have been impacted by Criminal Barristers restricting and withdrawing services in a dispute over legal aid. Restrictions were in place from 01 November 2024 to 06 January 2025 and a wider withdrawal of services from 06 January 2025 to 28 February 2025.

2 | Introduction

Background information about the Children Order and the County, Crown, High and Magistrates' Courts along with methodological information and a glossary is available in the [NICTS Quarterly Business Data User Guide](#). Data in the bulletin, along with trend information, are available in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

The next update covering the quarter to 30 September 2025 will be published in November 2025. A full [publication schedule](#) is available on the DoJ website.

Children Order Quarterly Business

- Table 1 on the following page shows that during the quarter there were 414 sittings (1,038 hours), 1,164 Children Order applications received and 1,121 disposed.
 - A total of 1,626 children were involved in the applications disposed. Gender and age breakdowns of the children were 53:47 male:female and 25% 0-4 years, 32% 5-8 years, 26% 9-12 years and 17% 13-16 years.
 - Like each of the last five years, the most common reason for transferring Children Order applications during the quarter was Complexity (69%, 132 of 192 reasons). This was followed by Consolidation (29), Jurisdiction (14), Return to Lower Court (6), Urgency (4), Convenience (3), Gravity (3) and Point of Law (1).
- In terms of orders made –
 - 345 were own motion orders.
 - 2,276 were interim orders.
 - 1,608 were final orders.
 - The average waiting time for applications disposed was 49 weeks for public and 30 weeks for private law.
 - Table 1 shows that compared with figures for the same quarter in the previous year, applications received and disposed both decreased by 2% and 8% respectively; waiting times for disposal for public law decreased from 55.5 weeks to 49.1 weeks; and waiting times for disposal for private law decreased from 34.4 weeks to 30.1 weeks.

3 | Children Order

Table 1: Children Order Business – April to June 2025 compared with April to June 2024

| | Quarter 2 2025 | Quarter 2 2024 | % change from 2024 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Sittings | 414 | 480 | 14% ↓ |
| Hours sat | 1,038 | 1,342 | 23% ↓ |
| Applications received | 1,164 | 1,193 | 2% ↓ |
| Applications disposed | 1,121 | 1,212 | 8% ↓ |
| Number of children involved in applications disposed | 1,626 | 1,800 | 10% ↓ |
| Own motion orders made | 345 | 304 | 13% ↑ |
| Interim orders made | 2,276 | 2,293 | 1% ↓ |
| Final orders made | 1,608 | 1,720 | 7% ↓ |
| Average waiting time for disposal for public law (weeks) | 49.1 | 55.5 | 12% ↓ |
| Average waiting time for disposal for private law (weeks) | 30.1 | 34.4 | 13% ↓ |

Supplementary data are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

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County Court

County Court Quarterly Business

- Table 2 on the following pages shows that County Court and District Judges sat a total of 1,308 sitting days during the quarter. Within those days, 729 were spent on criminal business and 579 days on civil and family business.
- During the quarter –
 - 2,648 Civil bills with notice of intention to defend (NID) were received and 2,748 disposed.
 - In terms of cases 38 equity; 176 ejectment; 2,393 small claims and one criminal damage case was received; and 42 equity; 163 ejectment; 2,125 small claims and one criminal damage cases was disposed.
 - 283 divorce decrees were granted and 271 decrees absolute issued.
 - 70 licence applications were received and 77 disposed.

4 | County Court

Table 2: County Court Business – April to June 2025 compared with April to June 2024

| | Quarter 2 2025 | Quarter 2 2024 | % change from 2024 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Sitting days | 1,308 | 1,376 | 5%↓ |
| Civil bills with NID received | 2,648 | 2,355 | 12%↑ |
| Civil bills disposed | 2,748 | 2,720 | 1%↑ |
| Average time taken from issue to disposal of civil bill (weeks) | 46 | 53 | 13%↓ |
| Equity cases received | 38 | 43 | 12%↓ |
| Equity cases disposed | 42 | 36 | 17%↑ |
| Average time taken from issue to disposal of equity cases (weeks) | 111 | 110 | 1%↑ |
| Ejectment cases received | 176 | 173 | 2%↑ |
| Ejectment cases disposed | 163 | 158 | 3%↑ |
| Average time taken from issue to disposal of ejectment cases (weeks) | 29 | 35 | 17%↓ |

Supplementary data are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

4 | County Court

Table 2 continued: County Court Business – April to June 2025 compared with April to June 2024

| | Quarter 2 2025 | Quarter 2 2024 | % change from 2024 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Small claims received | 2,393 | 2,067 | 16%↑ |
| Small claims disposed | 2,125 | 1,982 | 7%↑ |
| Average time taken from issue to disposal of small claims cases (weeks) | 22 | 23 | 4%↓ |
| Criminal damage cases received | 1 | - | ↑ |
| Criminal damage cases disposed | 1 | 3 | 67%↓ |
| Divorce decrees granted | 283 | 210 | 35%↑ |
| Decree absolute issued | 271 | 364 | 26%↓ |
| Average time taken from issue to date divorce decree granted (weeks) | 50 | 51 | 2%↓ |
| Licences applications received | 70 | 82 | 15%↓ |
| Licences applications disposed | 77 | 83 | 7%↓ |

Supplementary data are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

5 Crown Court

Crown Court Quarterly Business

- Please note that figures have been impacted by Criminal Barristers restricting and withdrawing services in a dispute over legal aid. Restrictions were in place from 01 November 2024 to 06 January 2025 and a wider withdrawal of services from 06 January 2025 to 28 February 2025.
- Table 3 on the following page shows that during the quarter there were 837 sittings (1,569 hours sat). Like previous quarters, County Court Judges disposed of the majority of defendants (98.9% ; 563).
- There were 415 cases and 495 defendants received during the quarter and 449 cases and 569 defendants disposed. The average time from committal to hearing was 183 days and from conviction to disposal was 93 days.
- In comparison to the same quarter in the previous year the number of cases and defendants received and disposed both increased. Average time from committal to hearing and from conviction to disposal also increased, whilst the number of sittings and hours sat both decreased.
- Figure 1 shows that, like previous years, the majority of defendants disposed were charged with a combination of offences.

Figure 1: Crown Court defendants disposed by charge type April to June 2025

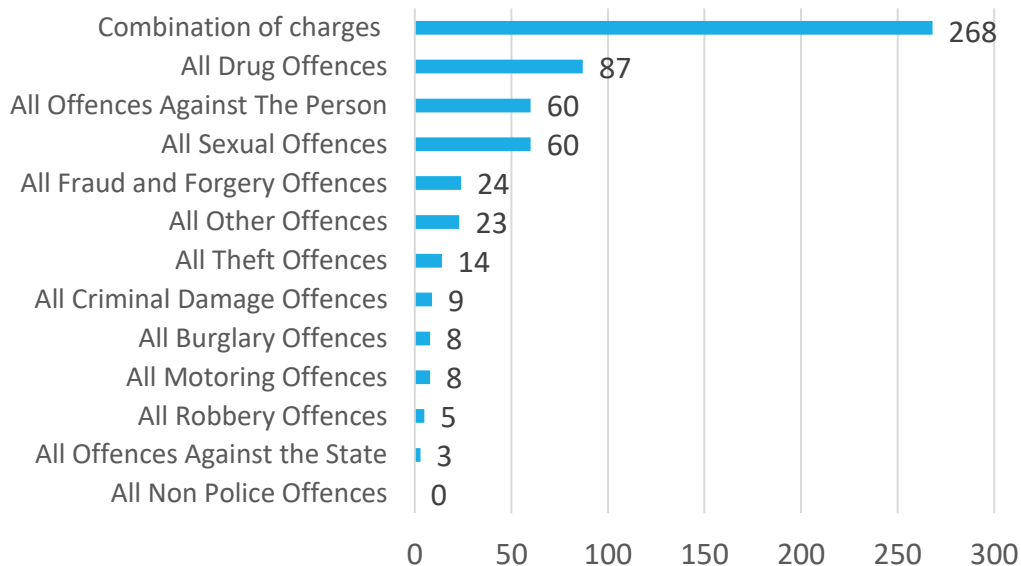


Table 3: Crown Court Business – April to June 2025 compared with April to June 2024

| | Quarter 2 2025 | Quarter 2 2024 | % change from 2024 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Sittings | 837 | 883 | 5%↓ |
| Hours sat | 1,569 | 1,801 | 13%↓ |
| Cases received | 415 | 408 | 2%↑ |
| Cases disposed | 449 | 433 | 4%↑ |
| Defendants received | 495 | 474 | 4%↑ |
| Defendants disposed | 569 | 526 | 8%↑ |
| Defendants pleading guilty to all charges | 133 | 113 | 18%↑ |
| Defendants pleading guilty or found guilty of at least one charge | 366 | 348 | 5%↑ |
| Average time from committal to hearing (days) | 183 | 141 | 30%↑ |
| Average time from conviction/acquittal to disposal (days) | 93 | 81 | 15%↑ |

Supplementary data are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

6 High Court

High Court Quarterly Business

- Table 4 on the following pages shows that there were 534 High Court sitting days during the quarter, the highest proportion of which was spent on Bails business (22%).
- King's Bench business included –
 - Receipt of 1,471 and disposal of 768 writs and originating summonses.
 - Receipt of 88 applications for leave to apply for Judicial Review; 10 applications for Judicial Review and two Ancillary applications.
- Chancery Division business included –
 - Receipt of 576 (63% of which were Chancery, 17% bankruptcy and 21% companies cases) and disposal of 627 cases.
 - 1,736 grants issued in the Probate office.
- Family Division business included –
 - Receipt of 18 and disposal of 23 adoption cases and applications.
 - 563 divorce petitions received, 216 decrees granted and 220 decrees absolute issued.
 - 45 Official Solicitor's Office cases received, 41 disposed and a current caseload of 626 cases at the end of the quarter.

6 | High Court

Table 4: High Court Business – April to June 2025 compared with April to June 2024

| | Quarter 2 2025 | Quarter 2 2024 | % change from 2024 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Sitting days | 534 | 610 | 12%↓ |
| Writs & originating summonses received | 1,471 | 1,341 | 10%↑ |
| Writs & originating summonses disposed | 768 | 1,011 | 24%↓ |
| Applications for leave to apply for Judicial Review received | 88 | 64 | 38%↑ |
| Applications for Judicial Review received | 10 | 10 | - |
| Ancillary applications received | 2 | - | ↑ |
| Chancery, Bankruptcy & Companies cases received | 576 | 640 | 10%↓ |
| Chancery, Bankruptcy & Companies cases disposed | 627 | 540 | 16%↑ |
| Grants issued in the Probate office | 1,736 | 2,128 | 18%↓ |

Supplementary data are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

6 | High Court

Table 4 continued: High Court Business – April to June 2025 compared with April to June 2024

| | Quarter 2 2025 | Quarter 2 2024 | % change from 2024 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Adoption cases & applications received | 18 | 15 | 20%↑ |
| Adoption cases & applications disposed | 23 | 29 | 21%↓ |
| Average time taken from issue to disposal for adoption case/application (weeks) | 28 | 24 | 17%↑ |
| Divorce petitions received | 563 | 610 | 8%↓ |
| Decrees granted in High Court | 216 | 262 | 18%↓ |
| Decrees absolute issued | 220 | 216 | 2%↑ |
| Average time taken from issue of divorce petition to date decree granted (weeks) | 56 | 60 | 7%↓ |
| Official Solicitors Office cases received | 45 | 73 | 38%↓ |
| Official Solicitors Office cases disposed | 41 | 8 | 413%↑ |
| Official Solicitors Office caseload at end of quarter | 626 | 502 | 25%↑ |

Supplementary data are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

7 | Magistrates' Court

Magistrates' Court Quarterly Business

- During the quarter there were 999 scheduled, 11 additional and 37 special Magistrates' sitting days (Table 5).
- Within the 1,047 total, 73% were adult criminal, 6% were youth criminal and 21% were civil and family days.

Table 5: Magistrates' Court Sitting Days – April to June 2025 compared with April to June 2024

| | Adult Quarter 2 2025 | Youth Quarter 2 2025 | Civil & Family Quarter 2 2025 | Total Quarter 2 2025 | Total Quarter 2 2024 | % change from 2024 |
|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Scheduled | 717 | 65 | 217 | 999 | 996 | <1%↑ |
| Additional | 11 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 29 | 62%↓ |
| Special | 37 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 32 | 16%↑ |
| Total | 765 | 65 | 217 | 1,047 | 1,057 | 1%↓ |

Supplementary data are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

7 | Magistrates' Court

- There were 783 new civil and family applications and 9,177 new adult and 235 new youth defendants received; corresponding disposals were 715, 8,523 and 241 respectively.
- The average waiting times from first hearing to disposal in the adult and youth criminal courts were 8 weeks and 17 weeks respectively. For civil and family applications it was 13 and 9 weeks respectively from date of receipt to disposal.

Table 6: Magistrates' Court Business – April to June 2025 compared with April to June 2024

| | Adult Quarter 2 2025 | Adult Quarter 2 2024 | % change from 2024 | Youth Quarter 2 2025 | Youth Quarter 2 2024 | % change from 2024 | Civil Quarter 2 2025 | Civil Quarter 2 2024 | % change from 2024 | Family Quarter 2 2025 | Family Quarter 2 2024 | % change from 2024 |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Defendants or applications received | 9,177 | 9,726 | 6%↓ | 235 | 247 | 5%↓ | 79 | 79 | - | 704 | 714 | 1%↓ |
| Defendants or applications disposed | 8,523 | 9,472 | 10% ↓ | 241 | 255 | 5%↓ | 82 | 99 | 17%↓ | 633 | 672 | 6%↓ |
| Average waiting time (weeks) | 8 | 8 | - | 17 | 15 | 13%↑ | 13 | 22 | 41%↓ | 9 | 11 | 18%↓ |

Supplementary data are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

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Appendix 1 - Methodology

Data Source and Coverage

The statistics are produced using administrative data sourced from the Integrated Court Operations System (ICOS). ICOS is a live operating system used in each court tier to process every part of court business, from receipt of payments through to the production of final orders made. The data are input into this system on a daily basis by court clerks, and this information is checked and confirmed by another member of staff to ensure the data entries are correct.

Full details of data relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, coherence, user need, cost and confidentiality is available in the accompanying [background quality report](#). Details of the data quality checks and processes that DoJ has in place are available in the [Quality Assurance of Administrative Data \(QAAD\) document](#) on the DoJ website.

Counting Rules

- **Children Order**

Receipts are counted from the date the case is entered onto ICOS. Disposals are counted from the result date that a final order was made against the case changing the case status to 'dealt with.'

- **County Court**

Receipts are counted from the date the case is entered onto ICOS and the fees are receipted. Disposals are counted from the result date that a final order was made against the case changing the case status to 'dealt with'.

8

Appendix 1 - Methodology

- Crown Court

Receipts are counted from the date the case is committed to the Crown Court from the Magistrates court. Disposals are counted from the result date that a final order was made against the case changing the case status to 'dealt with.'

- High Court

Receipts are counted from the date the case is entered onto ICOS and the fees are receipted. Disposals are counted from the result date that a final order was made against the case, or the date an applicant withdraws or discontinues their application prior to the hearing, changing the case status to 'dealt with'.

- Magistrates' Court

Receipts are counted from the date a served summons or a charge sheet is received by the Magistrates' Court office. Disposals are counted from the result date that a final order was made against the case changing the case status to 'dealt with'.