

Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service Provisional Figures

April to June 2026

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Key Findings

This report provides an overview of Children Order and County, Crown, High and Magistrates' Courts business during April to June 2026 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 498 Children Order sittings (1,183 total hours sat), 1,119 Children Order applications received and 1,126 disposed. In terms of orders made, 320 were own motion, 2,261 were interim and 1,652 were final orders.
 - County Court and District Judges sat a total of 1,258 days within the Crown and County Court. In terms of cases; 48 equity; 202 ejectment; 1,928 small claims and no criminal damage cases were received. In terms of cases disposed; 42 equity; 146 ejectment; 2,109 small claims and three criminal damage cases were disposed.
 - In terms of Crown Court business there were 656 sittings with 434 cases and 506 defendants received and 162 cases and 199 defendants disposed.
- There were 538 High Court sitting days. The highest proportion of these was spent on Bails business (17%). There were 1,476 writs and originating summons received and 1,360 disposed.
 - Within the 1,068 Magistrates' sitting days total, 72% were adult criminal, 6% were youth criminal and 22% were civil and family days. There were 768 civil and family applications and 8,788 adult and 280 youth defendants received; corresponding disposals were 720, 8,351 and 284 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 2026 –

- 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 a withdrawal of services by Criminal Barristers. A withdrawal of services was ongoing from 01 November 2024 to 22 June 2026 with a full withdraw of services undertaken from 06 January 2025 to 28 February 2025 and 5 January 2026 to 22 June 2026.

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Introduction

Background information about the Children Order and the County, Crown, High and Magistrates' Courts along with methodological information is available in the [NICTS statistics user guide](#) and a glossary of terms available in the [glossary](#). Data in the bulletin, along with trend information, are available in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

The next update covering the quarter to 30th September 2026 will be published in November 2026. 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 498 sittings (1,183 hours), 1,119 Children Order applications received and 1,126 disposed.
- A total of 1,596 children were involved in the applications disposed. 49% of the children were male and 51% female. In terms of age, 28% 0-4 years, 30% 5-8 years, 25% 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 (70%, 174 of 250 reasons). This was followed by Consolidation (30), Jurisdiction (24), Return to Lower Court (7), Convenience (5), Point of Law (3), Urgency (3), Gravity (3) and Separate Representation for Child (1).
- In terms of orders made –
 - 320 were own motion orders.
 - 2,261 were interim orders.
 - 1,652 were final orders.
- The average waiting time for applications disposed was 58 weeks for public and 32 weeks for private law.
- Table 1 shows that compared with figures for the same quarter in the previous year, applications received decreased by 4%, applications disposed increased by <1%; waiting times for disposal for public law increased from 49.1 to 57.9 weeks and private law increased from 30.1 to 31.8 weeks.

3 | Children Order

Table 1: Children Order Business – April to June 2026 compared with April to June 2025

	Quarter 2 2026	Quarter 2 2025	% change from 2025
Sittings	498	414	20% ↑
Hours sat	1,183	1,038	14% ↑
Applications received	1,119	1,164	4% ↓
Applications disposed	1,126	1,121	<1% ↑
Number of children involved in applications disposed	1,596	1,626	2% ↓
Own motion orders made	320	345	7% ↓
Interim orders made	2,261	2,276	1% ↓
Final orders made	1,652	1,608	3% ↑
Average waiting time for disposal for public law (weeks)	57.9	49.1	18% ↑
Average waiting time for disposal for private law (weeks)	31.8	30.1	6% ↑

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 1,258 sitting days during the quarter. Within those days, 552 were spent on criminal business and 706 days on civil and family business.
- During the quarter –
 - 2,713 Civil bills with notice of intention to defend (NID) were received and 3,020 civil bills disposed.
 - In terms of cases 48 equity; 202 ejectment; 1,928 small claims and no criminal damage cases were received; and 42 equity; 146 ejectment; 2,108 small claims and three criminal damage cases were disposed.
 - 266 divorce decrees were granted and 191 decrees absolute issued.
 - 95 licence applications were received and 107 disposed.

4 | County Court

Table 2: County Court Business – April to June 2026 compared with April to June 2025

	Quarter 2 2026	Quarter 2 2025	% change from 2025
Sitting days	1,258	1,308	4%↓
Civil bills with NID received	2,713	2,648	2%↑
Civil bills disposed	3,020	2,748	10%↑
Average time taken from issue to disposal of civil bill (weeks)	55	46	20%↑
Equity cases received	48	38	26%↑
Equity cases disposed	42	42	-
Average time taken from issue to disposal of equity cases (weeks)	83	111	25%↓
Ejectment cases received	202	176	15%↑
Ejectment cases disposed	146	163	10%↓
Average time taken from issue to disposal of ejectment cases (weeks)	34	29	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 2026 compared with April to June 2025

	Quarter 2 2026	Quarter 2 2025	% change from 2025
Small claims received	1,928	2,393	19%↓
Small claims disposed	2,108	2,125	1%↓
Average time taken from issue to disposal of small claims cases (weeks)	24	22	9%↑
Criminal damage cases received	0	1	100%↓
Criminal damage cases disposed	3	1	200%↑
Divorce decrees granted	266	283	6%↓
Decree absolute issued	191	271	30%↓
Average time taken from issue to date divorce decree granted (weeks)	60	50	20%↑
Licences applications received	95	70	36%↑
Licences applications disposed	107	77	39%↑

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 a withdrawal of services by Criminal Barristers. A withdrawal of services was ongoing to varying from 01 November 2024 to 22 June 2026 with a full withdraw of services undertaken from 06 January 2025 to 28 February 2025 and 5 January 2026 to 22 June 2026.

- As can be seen from Table 3 on the next page, during the quarter there were 656 sittings (637 hours sat). Similar to previous quarters, County Court Judges disposed of the majority of defendants (96% ; 191).
- There were 434 cases and 506 defendants received during the quarter and 162 cases and 199 defendants disposed. The average time from committal to hearing was 162 days and from conviction to disposal was 149 days.
- Compared to the same quarter last year, the number of cases and defendants received increased, while the number of cases and defendants disposed decreased. Average time from committal to hearing decreased and from conviction to disposal increased.
- Figure 1 shows that, consistent with previous years, most disposed defendants were charged with a combination of offences.

Figure 1: Crown Court defendants disposed by charge type April to June 2026

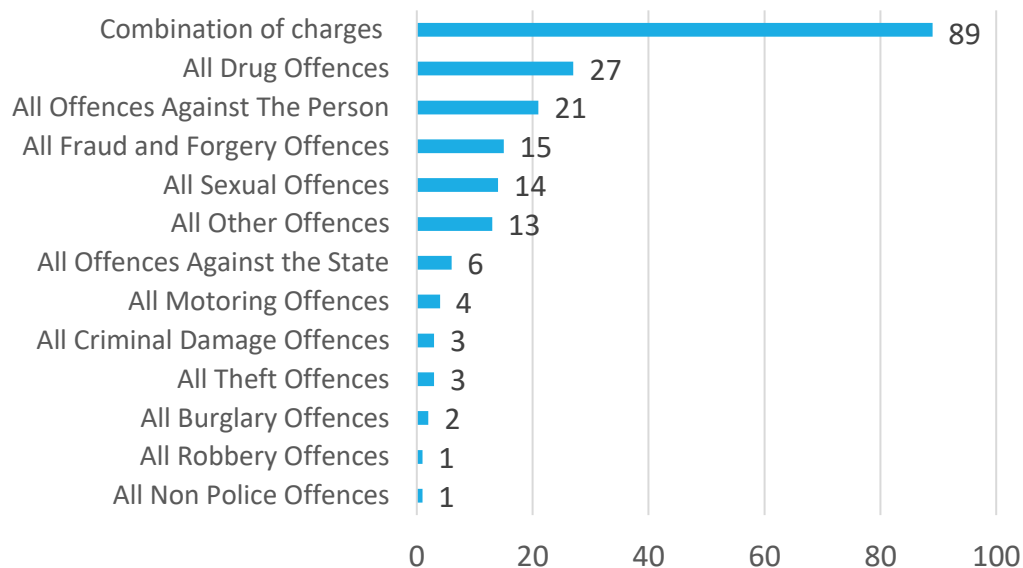


Table 3: Crown Court Business – April to June 2026 compared with April to June 2025

	Quarter 2 2026	Quarter 2 2025	% change from 2025
Sittings	656	837	22%↓
Hours sat	637	1,569	59%↓
Cases received	434	415	5%↑
Cases disposed	162	449	64%↓
Defendants received	506	495	2%↑
Defendants disposed	199	569	65%↓
Defendants pleading guilty to all charges	57	133	57%↓
Defendants pleading guilty or found guilty of at least one charge	117	366	68%↓
Average time from committal to hearing (days)	162	183	11%↓
Average time from conviction/acquittal to disposal (days)	149	93	60%↑

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 538 High Court sitting days during the quarter, the highest proportion of which was spent on Bails business (17%).
- King's Bench business included –
 - Receipt of 1,476 and disposal of 1,360 writs and originating summonses.
 - Receipt of 63 applications for leave to apply for Judicial Review; 8 applications for Judicial Review and one Ancillary application.
- Chancery Division business included –
 - Receipt of 536 (50% of which were Chancery, 33% bankruptcy and 17% companies cases) and disposal of 535 cases.
 - 1,926 grants issued in the Probate office.
- Family Division business included –
 - Receipt of 13 and disposal of 21 adoption cases and applications.
 - 490 divorce petitions received, 208 decrees granted and 281 decrees absolute issued.
 - 87 Official Solicitor's Office Patient caseloads and 56 Minors' caseloads were received, with 36 and 33 disposed.

6 | High Court

Table 4: High Court Business – April to June 2026 compared with April to June 2025

	Quarter 2 2026	Quarter 2 2025	% change from 2025
Sitting days	538	534	1%↑
Writs & originating summonses received	1,476	1,471	<1% ↑
Writs & originating summonses disposed	1,360	768	77%↑
Applications for leave to apply for Judicial Review received	63	88	28%↓
Applications for Judicial Review received	8	10	20%↓
Ancillary applications received	1	2	50%↓
Chancery, Bankruptcy & Companies cases received	536	576	7%↓
Chancery, Bankruptcy & Companies cases disposed	535	627	15%↓
Grants issued in the Probate office	1,926	1,736	11%↑

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

6 | High Court

Table 4 continued: High Court Business – April to June 2026 compared with April to June 2025

	Quarter 2 2026	Quarter 2 2025	% change from 2025
Adoption cases & applications received	13	18	28%↓
Adoption cases & applications disposed	21	23	9%↓
Average time taken from issue to disposal for adoption case/application (weeks)	33	28	18%↑
Divorce petitions received	490	563	13%↓
Decrees granted in High Court	208	216	4%↓
Decrees absolute issued	281	220	28%↑
Average time taken from issue of divorce petition to date decree granted (weeks)	62	56	11%↑
Official Solicitor's Office Patients cases received	87	45	93%↑
Official Solicitor's Office Patients cases disposed	36	41	12%↓
Official Solicitor's Office Minors cases received	56	34	65%↑
Official Solicitor's Office Minors cases disposed	33	10	230%↑

Note: caseload data relating to Minors in the Official Solicitor's Office are now included. Please refer to note 34 in the accompanying spreadsheet and methodology section at the end of this report

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

7 | Magistrates' Court

Magistrates' Court Quarterly Business

- During the quarter there were 1,022 scheduled, 8 additional and 38 special Magistrates' sitting days (Table 5).
- Within the 1,068 total, 72% were adult criminal, 6% were youth criminal and 22% were civil and family days.

Table 5: Magistrates' Court Sitting Days – April to June 2026 compared with April to June 2025

	Adult Quarter 2 2026	Youth Quarter 2 2026	Civil & Family Quarter 2 2026	Total Quarter 2 2026	Total Quarter 2 2025	% change from 2025
Scheduled	727	66	229	1,022	999	2%↑
Additional	6	0	2	8	11	27%↓
Special	38	0	0	38	37	3%↑
Total	771	66	231	1,068	1,047	2%↑

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

7 Magistrates' Court

- There were 768 new civil and family applications and 8,788 new adult and 280 new youth defendants received; corresponding disposals were 720, 8,351 and 284 respectively.
- The average waiting times from first hearing to disposal in the adult and youth criminal courts were 8 weeks and 11 weeks respectively. For civil and family applications it was 21 and 10 weeks respectively from date of receipt to disposal.

Table 6: Magistrates' Court Business – April to June 2026 compared with April to June 2025

	Adult Quarter 2 2026	Adult Quarter 2 2025	% change from 2025	Youth Quarter 2 2026	Youth Quarter 2 2025	% change from 2025	Civil Quarter 2 2026	Civil Quarter 2 2025	% change from 2025	Family Quarter 2 2026	Family Quarter 2 2025	% change from 2025
Defendants or applications received	8,788	9,177	4%↓	280	235	19%↑	71	79	10%↓	697	704	1%↓
Defendants or applications disposed	8,351	8,523	2%↓	284	241	18%↑	71	82	13%↓	649	633	3%↑
Average waiting time (weeks)	8	8	-	11	17	35%↓	21	13	62%↑	10	9	11%↑

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](#) 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'.

- Official Solicitor's Office

Previous quarterly publications reported caseload data for patients (18 and over). This publication and subsequent publications now includes caseload data for minors (under 18s).

Previously reported figures relating to patients' incoming correspondence were incorrectly labelled – the figures included correspondence relating to both minors and patients. The labelling has been updated to reflect this and can be found in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

The annual Judicial Statistics Publications are unaffected.