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**Analytical Services Group**

# **Children Order Bulletin**

**October to December 2015**

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Provisional Figures**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This bulletin provides information on throughput of Children Order business in Northern Ireland across the magistrates (Family Proceedings Courts), county (Family Care Centre) and High courts. This bulletin covers the period October to December 2015 and commentary on trends observed for this quarter in each year from 2007. During the period October to December 2015:
- There were 1,273 Children Order Applications received during October to December 2015. This was a 5% decrease on the 1,340 applications received during October to December 2014. The number of applications disposed has decreased by 9% from 1,392 during October to December 2014, to 1,260 for the same period in 2015 (Figure 1).
- The most common reason for transfer is complexity at 67% (Figure 2 – 99 out of 148 reasons). Across the 9 year time series, complexity has remained the most common reason, ranging between 27% and 67% of those applications being transferred.
- There were 854 own motion orders made in October to December 2015, and 19% (159) were in relation to Contact Issues. This was an increase of 18% on the 722 own motion orders made between October to December 2014.
- There were 8,706 interim orders made, an increase of 3% on the same period last year (8,442), and the majority were in relation to Care (3,851) and Contact (3,777) issues.
- There were 6,343 final orders made between October to December 2015, this is a 6% decrease on the 6,736 orders made during the same period last year. The majority of final orders made were in relation to Contact and Residence issues – 1,647 (26%) and 998 (16%) orders respectively.
- Between October to December 2015, the average waiting time for applications disposed was 39.5 weeks for public law and 22.2 weeks for private law. The average waiting times have increased by 14% for public law applications and increased by 4% for private law applications, in comparison to the same quarter last year (34.6 and 21.3 weeks respectively).
- In the quarter October to December 2015 there were 1,890 children involved in the applications disposed. This was a 4% decrease on the 1,978 disposed in the same quarter in 2014.
- In total there were 512 Children Order sittings for October to December 2015 compared with 478 for October to December 2014, with a total time of 1,244 hours sat compared with 1,288 hours sat during the same period last year (a decrease of 3%).

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The primary aim of the Children Order is to promote the welfare of children. The Order creates a clear, practical and consistent code of law governing the care, protection and upbringing of children and the provision of services to them and their families. It confers concurrent jurisdiction on all three tiers of the courts (High Court, county courts and magistrates' courts) so that subject to certain limited exceptions, any court can make any of the orders available under the Order. Under the Order the welfare of the child is the paramount consideration. When dealing with children, courts try to ensure that delay is avoided, and may only make an order if to do so is better than making no order at all.

All children order matters are dealt with at Family Proceedings Courts (which are part of the magistrates' courts), at Family Care Centres (which are part of the county courts) or in the Family Division (Office of Care & Protection) of the High Court. Where a Family Proceedings Court considers that the proceedings are exceptionally grave, important or complex, then the matter will be transferred to the Family Care Centre. Where the Family Care Centre believes that the case is suitable for hearing the High Court it may in turn transfer it to the High Court.

Matters affecting children are split into public and private law applications;

Public Law applications: are those brought by local authorities and include matters such as care, supervision and emergency protection orders.

Private Law applications: are those brought by private individuals, generally in connection with divorce or the parents' separation. Order types include parental responsibility, residence, financial provision and article 8 contact applications.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Data sources**

Data contained in the Tables are inputted onto the Integrated Court operations System (ICOS). This system was implemented across the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) over a two year period from 2005 to 2007. While ICOS was introduced in the Children Order Proceedings during 2007, data derived from ICOS has been used as the source for official government statistics since April 2007, when the implementation of ICOS across all court tiers was completed. 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.

### **2.2 Methodology for generating data**

Statisticians based within the NICTS take a download of Children Order information from ICOS on a monthly basis. The information is downloaded using a package called Oracle Discoverer which extracts all the relevant data from ICOS into text files which are refreshed with up to date information each weekend. The text files are downloaded onto a secure internal facility that only specified statistical personnel have access to. The data contained in the files are identified only by numbers and names and addresses are not held. These statistical files are not transmitted outside the NICTS statistical team. The statisticians based in the NICTS then import these data into the Statistics Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). SPSS is then used to perform extensive data validations to identify potential errors in the data and to ensure the data are reliable and robust.

### **2.3 Baseline and Time period**

Data contained within this bulletin relate to the time series 2007 to the current calendar year - 2015, as ICOS was adopted as the source of Children Order data in April 2007.

### **2.4 Data quality and validation**

Statisticians based in the NICTS have invested significant time and effort creating an extensive computer programme within SPSS to validate the information downloaded from ICOS. The programme includes over 100 checks against downloaded Children Order data to: (i) check consistency over time and between variables; (ii) reliability of data using logic checks; (iii) checking that variables fall within accepted ranges; and (iv) checking with the ICOS Support Team in the event of any major discrepancies that have occurred since the last download. The validation program produces user friendly tables highlighting the potential problems which are circulated to each county court venue as a validation report.

Each court division has a Case Progression Officer who is responsible for: monitoring accuracy levels on ICOS, by carrying out sample checks on data entry and court resulting; ensuring all validations on ICOS and manual statistics returns are completed in a timely

manner; providing advice and identifying training needs; monitoring the confirmation of ICOS criminal court resulting, including the inputting of adjournment codes; and promoting awareness of the impact error can have, its wide ranging consequences and the negative impact on the reliability of management information.

The Case Progression Officer is given a two week period from the date the validation report issues until all records are amended on ICOS. This ensures that the corrections are updated before the next download of files. After the files have been refreshed each weekend, all the data are then downloaded again, with the new download reflecting amendments made as a result of the validation reports. If any errors have not been corrected, they will continue to appear in the validation reports until the necessary amendments are made on ICOS.

The NICTS statistics team then ensure that all validations relating to the reporting period are amended prior to publication. Once these amendments have been checked, SPSS syntax programming is then used to generate the tables in the publication.

## **2.5 Counting rules**

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.

## **2.6 Interpreting trends**

Care should be taken when comparing data trends before and after April 2007, when ICOS was introduced as the source for Children Order data. For further advice on differences in data between years, please contact the statistician responsible for this bulletin.

## **2.7 Revisions**

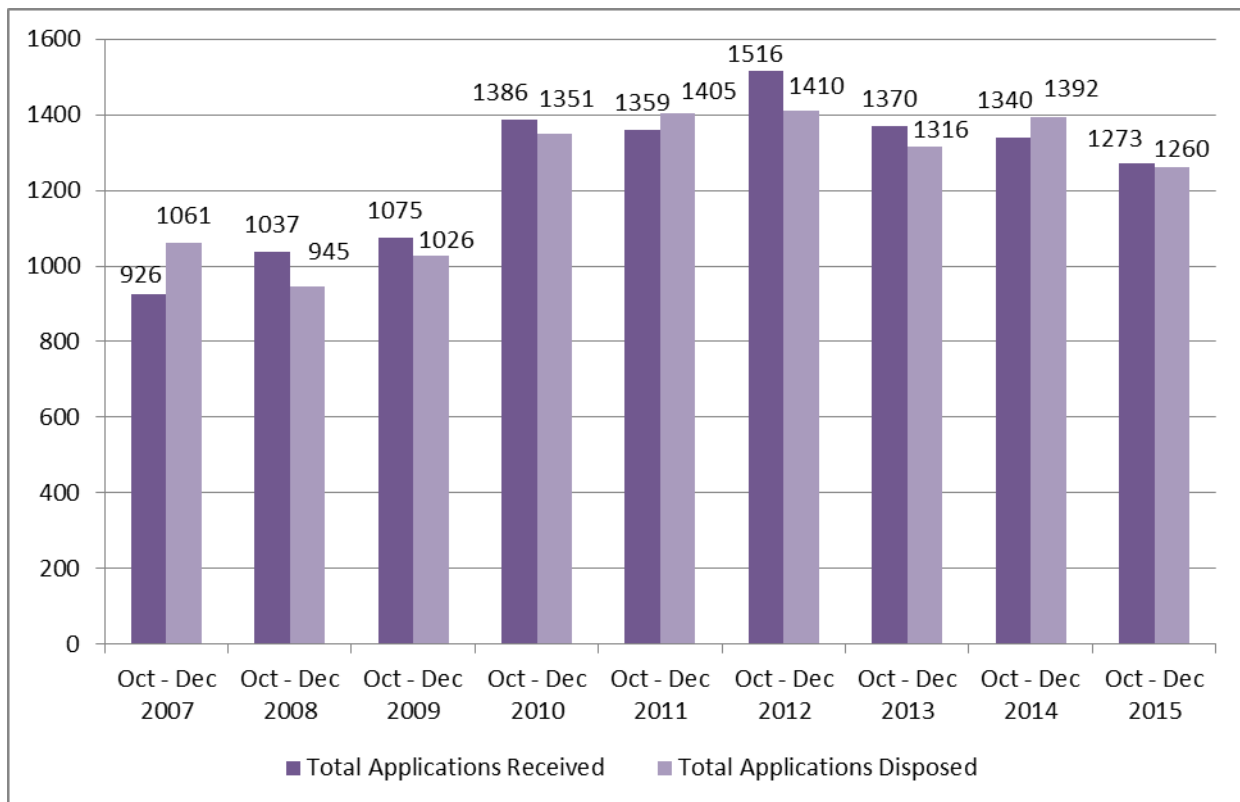
Any revision to data will be applied in light of the ASG (NICTS) Statistical Note 'Policy Statement on Revisions' which can be found on the Statistics and Research page of the Services section on the NICTS website ([www.courtsni.gov.uk](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk)). Incorrect figures of changes to this publication will be published on the web in a formal Statistical Notice.

### 3 FINDINGS

#### 3.1 Receipts & Disposals

There were 1,273 Children Order Applications received during October to December 2015 (Table 1a). This was a 5% decrease on the 1,340 applications received during October to December 2014. The number of applications disposed has decreased by 9% from 1,392 during October to December 2014, to 1,260 for the same period in 2015 (Table 1a). The number of applications received and disposed for the October to December quarter over the last nine years is outlined in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Children Order Applications Received and Disposed: October – December 2007 to October – December 2015**



The general trend in applications received in the October to December quarter increased each year between 2007 and 2012, except for a dip in 2011, before decreasing by 16% between 2012 and 2015. The trend in applications disposed fluctuated across the time series, peaking at 1,410 in 2012.

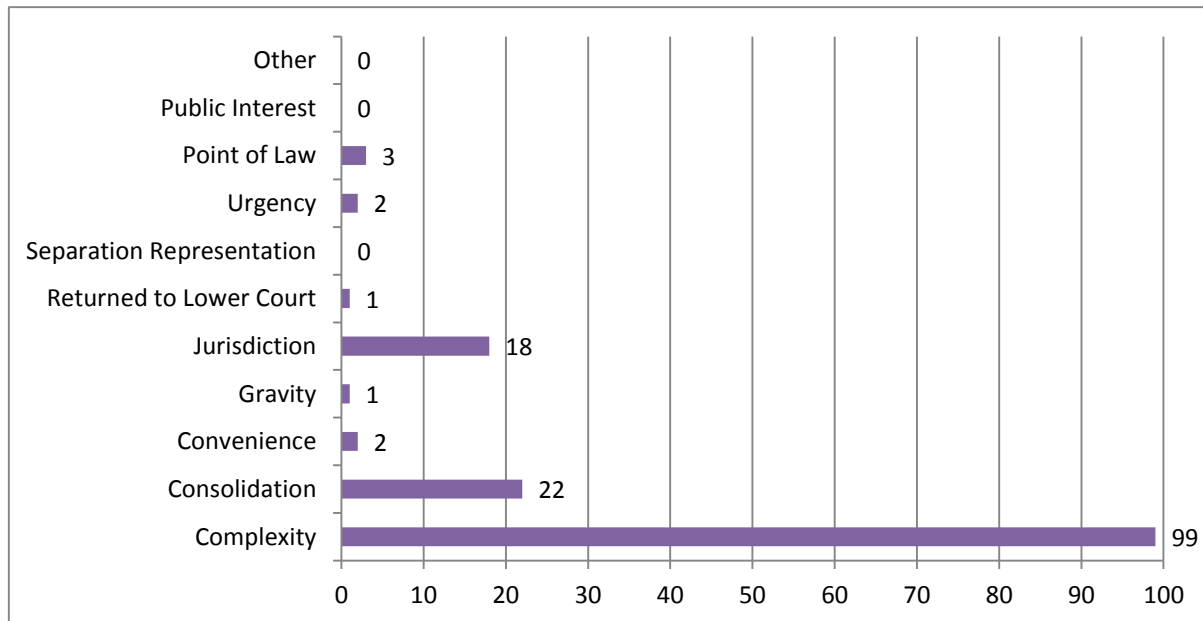
As shown in Figure 1, between 2007 and 2015 the numbers of applications being received have been similar to the applications disposed, with 1% more applications being received than disposed in 2015.



### 3.2 Transfers

The reasons for transferring children order applications are detailed in the graph below. The most common reason for transfer is complexity at 67% (Figure 2 – 99 out of 148 reasons). Across the 9 year time series, complexity has remained the most common reason, ranging between 27% and 67% of those applications being transferred.

**Figure 2: Reasons for Transfer: October – December 2015**



### 3.3 Orders Made

There were 854 own motion orders made in October to December 2015, and 19% (159) were in relation to Contact Issues. This was an increase of 18% on the 722 own motion orders made between October to December 2014. Own Motion orders fluctuated over the time series peaking in 2015 with 854 orders made. An own motion order is made at the discretion of the Judge when he or she feels that the order would be in the best interests of the child, and no formal application has been made.

There were 8,706 interim orders made, an increase of 3% on the same period last year (8,442), and the majority were in relation to Care (3,851) and Contact (3,777) issues. Interim orders have increased significantly over the time series from 2,281 in 2007 to 8,706 in 2015.

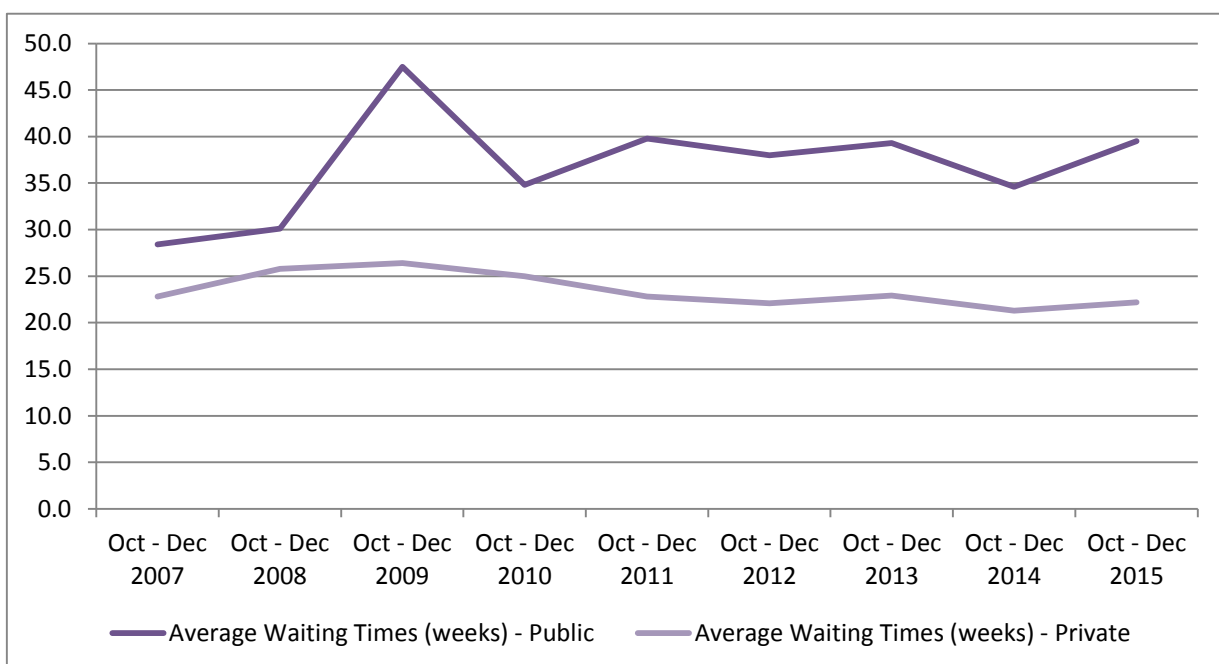
There were 6,343 final orders made between October to December 2015, this is a 6% decrease on the 6,736 orders made during the same period last year. The majority of final orders made were in relation to Contact and Residence issues – 1,647 (26%) and 998

(16%) orders respectively. Final orders made decreased by 9% between 2007 and 2009 (from 2,471 to 2,248), and then increased each year to 6,736 in 2014.

### 3.4 Waiting times

Between October to December 2015, the average waiting time for applications disposed was 39.5 weeks for public law and 22.2 weeks for private law. The average waiting times have increased by 14% for public law applications and increased by 4% for private law applications in comparison to the same quarter last year (34.6 and 21.3 weeks respectively). Over the time series the trend for public law average waiting times has fluctuated, with an overall increase of 39% from 28.4 to 39.5 weeks, peaking at 47.5 weeks in 2009. There trend in average waiting times for private law applications between 2007 and 2015 has remained relatively stable, decreasing by 3% from 22.8 to 22.2 weeks. Private law applications disposed have increased by 28% (from 832 in 2007 to 1,063 in 2015) across the time series, causing increased pressure on court lists, which in turn can increase average waiting times. Public law applications involve the local authorities and can often deal with complex and serious issues in relation to the welfare of a child, and this can also affect waiting times.

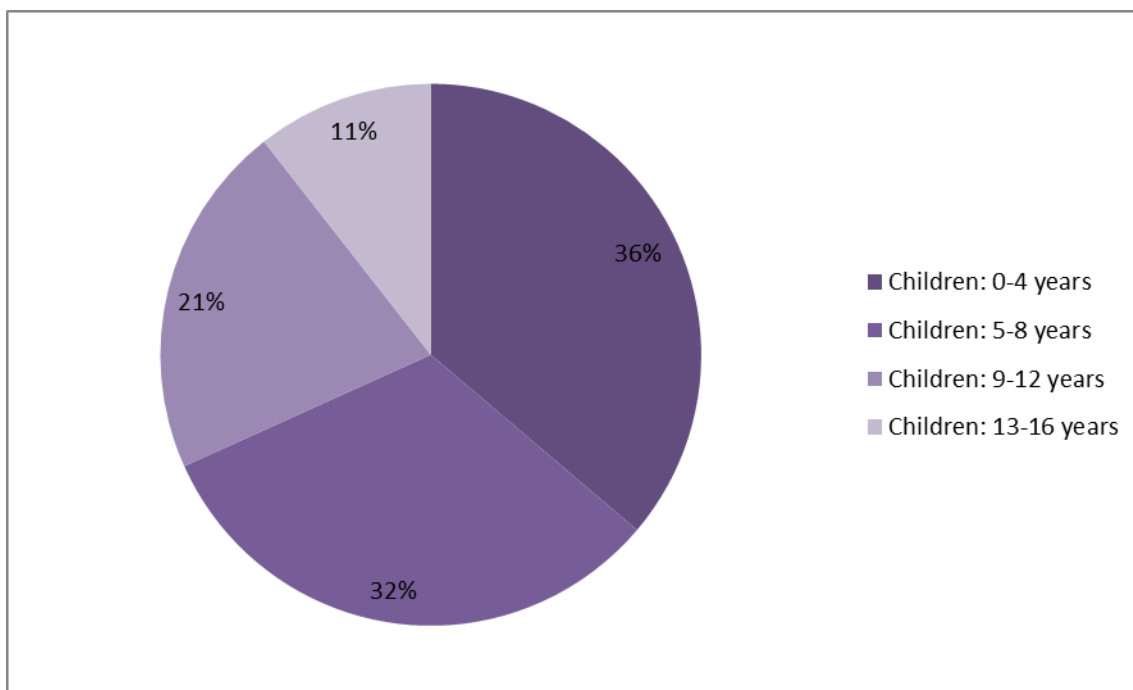
**Figure 3: Average waiting times for applications disposed: October – December 2007 to October – December 2015**



### 3.5 Age and Gender of Children

In the quarter October to December 2015 there were 1,890 children involved in the applications disposed. This was a 4% decrease on the 1,978 disposed in the same quarter in 2014. The trend in the numbers of children involved is generally increasing, with numbers increasing from 1,183 in 2007 to 1,890 in 2015, a 60% increase. Figure 4 below indicates the age categories of the children involved. The majority of children were between 0 and 4 years old (36%), the figure for the same quarter last year was 41%. The gender breakdown is shown in Table 7, with the split being 53:47 (male: female), similar to the same quarter last year (50:50).

**Figure 4: Age and gender of children involved: October – December 2015**



### 3.6 Sittings

In total there were 512 Children Order sittings for October to December 2015 compared with 478 for October to December 2014, with a total time of 1,244 hours sat compared with 1,288 hours sat during the same period last year (a decrease of 3%). Children Order sittings have fluctuated across the time series peaking at 512 in 2015.

## APPENDIX 1 - TABLES

**Table 1a: Applications received and disposed**

		Number of applications received	Number of disposals
Private Law <sup>1</sup>	Family Proceedings Court	1036	938
	Family Care Centre	38	101
	High Court	33	24
	Total	1107	1063
Public Law	Family Proceedings Court	146	110
	Family Care Centre	10	76
	High Court	10	11
	Total	166	197

<sup>1</sup> Private law = residence, contact, specific issues, prohibited steps, parental responsibility, financial contribution, guardianship, family assistance, non-molestation and occupation orders

**Table 1b: Applications received and disposed by processing office**

		Public Law		Private Law <sup>1</sup>	
		Number of applications received	Number of disposals	Number of applications received	Number of disposals
Family Proceedings Court	Antrim	0	0	4	5
	Ballymena	11	12	95	90
	Belfast	41	28	367	274
	Coleraine	0	0	8	6
	Craigavon	13	5	79	51
	Downpatrick	0	0	3	2
	Dungannon	20	17	48	42
	Lisburn	8	2	97	102
	Londonderry	12	14	96	104
	Newry	16	9	59	86
	Newtownards	25	23	179	174
	Omagh	0	0	1	2
	Total	146	110	1036	938
Family Care Centre	Belfast	4	47	23	70
	Craigavon	5	21	13	22
	Dungannon	1	2	2	3
	Londonderry	0	6	0	6
	Total	10	76	38	101
High Court	Royal Courts of Justice	10	11	33	24
	Total	10	11	33	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>166</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>1107</b>	<b>1063</b>

<sup>1</sup> Private law = residence, contact, specific issues, prohibited steps, parental responsibility, financial contribution, guardianship, family assistance, non-molestation and occupation orders.

**Table 2: Reasons for transfer<sup>2</sup>**

Transferred from		Complexity	Consolidation	Convenience	Gravity	Jurisdiction	Returned to Lower Court	Separate Representation for Child	Urgency	Point of Law	Public Interest	Other	Total
Family Proceedings Court	Antrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ballymena	8	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
	Belfast	27	8	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	42
	Coleraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Craigavon	13	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	17
	Dungannon	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Lisburn	11	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
	Londonderry	14	3	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	21
	Newry	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Newtownards	7	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
	Omagh	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Venue total	90	20	1	1	15	0	0	1	3	0	0	131	
Family Care Centre	Belfast	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
	Craigavon	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Dungannon	4	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Londonderry	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Venue total	9	2	1	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	17
High Court	Royal Courts of Justice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Venue total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Ireland Total		99	22	2	1	18	1	0	2	3	0	0	148

<sup>2</sup> Total number of reasons for transfer. There may be more than one reason for each case. There were 148 cases transferred during the period.

**Table 3: Own motion orders<sup>3</sup>**

	Own motion orders
Appointment of Guardian ad Litem	151
Article 8 Contact	159
Care	138
Contact with a child in care	0
Child Assessment	0
Education Supervision	9
Emergency Protection	0
Extension of an Emergency Protection Order	6
Family Assistance	0
Financial Provision	0
Leave to change surname by which the child is known	3
Non-Molestation Order	0
Occupation Order	0
Other orders	237
Parental Responsibility	10
Prohibited Steps	17
Recovery	0
Residence	85
Secure Accommodation	4
Specific Issues	18
Supervision	17
Total	854

<sup>3</sup> These figures may also include some interim orders.

**Table 4: Interim orders**

	Interim orders
Appointment of Guardian ad Litem	0
Article 8 Contact	3777
Article 8 Contact - Refused	4
Care	3851
Contact with a child in care	0
Child Assessment	0
Education Supervision	0
Emergency Protection	0
Extension of an Emergency Protection Order	0
Family Assistance	0
Financial Provision	0
Non-Molestation Order	9
Occupation Order	0
Other orders	0
Parental Responsibility	7
Prohibited Steps	172
Recovery	0
Residence	525
Secure Accommodation	150
Specific Issues	21
Supervision	190
Total	8706



**Table 5: Final Orders**

		Orders Made		Total
		By Consent	Other	
Orders Made	Adjourn Generally	0	21	21
	Article 8 Contact	1262	385	1647
	Care Order	127	199	326
	Contact with a Child in Care	0	8	8
	Declaration of Parentage	15	12	27
	Discharge of a Care Order	50	0	50
	Discharge Interim Contact Order	16	24	40
	Discharge Prohibited Steps Order	22	10	32
	Discharge Residence Order	0	3	3
	Dismissed	108	172	280
	Education Supervision	0	67	67
	Emergency Protection Order	13	15	28
	Emergency Protection Order - out of hours	0	24	24
	Extension of an Emergency Protection Order	7	6	13
	Family Assistance Order	15	0	15
	Financial Provision	0	13	13
	Leave to change surname by which the child is known	9	3	12
	Non-Molestation Order	0	8	8
	Order of No Order (Final Order)	20	16	36
	Other Order	25	1064	1089
	Parental Responsibility Order	68	70	138
	Prohibited Steps	54	114	168
	Recovery of a child	0	6	6
	Refusal of Article 3 Legal Aid Certificate	0	63	63
	Residence Order	660	338	998
	Residence and Contact Order	26	0	26
	Secure Accommodation Order	0	9	9
Specific Issues	71	89	160	
Strike Out Order	25	80	105	
Supervision Order	54	51	105	
Terminating Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem	272	72	344	
Withdrawn	346	136	482	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3265</b>	<b>3078</b>	<b>6343</b>	

**Table 6: Average time in weeks from lodgement to disposal<sup>4</sup> by processing office**

		Public law		Private law	
		Average time weeks	Number of disposals	Average time weeks	Number of disposals
Family Proceedings Court	Antrim	0.0	0	25.1	5
	Ballymena	46.4	12	21.4	90
	Belfast	24.4	28	15.9	274
	Coleraine	0.0	0	7.9	6
	Craigavon	13.9	5	14.5	51
	Downpatrick	0.0	0	0.0	2
	Dungannon	34.2	17	15.1	42
	Lisburn	23.1	2	16.0	102
	Londonderry	39.4	14	29.3	104
	Newry	36.0	9	24.5	86
	Newtownards	18.1	23	19.3	174
	Omagh	0.0	0	20.6	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>938</b>
Family Care Centre	Belfast	47.9	47	54.3	70
	Craigavon	58.3	21	35.9	22
	Dungannon	50.1	2	31.8	3
	Londonderry	75.0	6	37.4	6
		<b>Total</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>48.6</b>
High Court	Royal Courts of Justice	47.1	11	29.8	24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>39.5</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>1063</b>

<sup>4</sup> The time shown will include the time taken at the first court tier.

**Table 7: Age and gender of children in applications disposed<sup>5</sup>**

	0-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	Total
Male	361	301	249	94	1005
Female	323	305	150	106	884
Unknown	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1890</b>

<sup>5</sup> From the period January to March 2013, there has been a change in measurement of children involved to include children entered as a 'respondent child' on ICOS. This accounted for 221 of the total.

**Table 8: Court sittings and court sitting times** <sup>6 7</sup>

		Total sitting time	Average sitting time	Total sittings
Family Proceedings Court	Antrim	15:55	2:39	6
	Ballymena	43:10	3:05	14
	Belfast	194:00	2:49	69
	Coleraine	32:50	4:06	8
	Craigavon	38:10	3:11	12
	Downpatrick	0:05	0:05	1
	Dungannon	28:40	2:52	10
	Lisburn	47:20	2:38	18
	Londonderry	99:05	4:08	24
	Newry	58:35	3:27	17
	Newtownards	75:15	2:02	37
	Omagh	28:55	3:37	8
Total	662:00	2:57	224	
Family Care Centre	Belfast	256:30	2:40	96
	Craigavon	77:33	2:30	31
	Dungannon	30:00	3:45	8
	Omagh	17:40	3:32	5
	Londonderry	44:55	4:05	11
	Total	426:38	2:50	151
High Court	Royal Courts of Justice	155:10	1:08	137
	Total	155:10	1:08	137
Total		1243:48	2:26	512

<sup>6</sup> A court sitting is counted as any day where the judiciary sit in court. It does not include time in chambers or days where the judiciary are sitting in chambers.

<sup>7</sup> Children Order sittings refer to a sitting where any Children Order business is heard and the venue it was heard in.

## **APPENDIX 2 - EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **Adjourn Generally**

A putting off or postponing of proceedings.

### **Appointment of Guardian ad Litem**

Appointment of a guardian by the court - The High Court or a county court may appoint an individual to be a child's guardian if the child has no parent with parental responsibility for him or a residence order has been made with respect to the child in favour of a parent or guardian of his who has died while the order was in force. A person appointed as a guardian under this Article shall have parental responsibility for the child.

### **Article 53 Contact with a child in care**

Where a child is in care of an authority, the authority shall (subject to the provisions of this article) allow the child reasonable contact with: (a) parents; (b) any guardian; (c) persons named in residence orders made immediately prior to the child being placed in care; and (d) persons who had care of the child by virtue of an order made in the exercise of the High Court's inherent jurisdiction immediately before the care order was made.

### **Article 8 Contact**

Relates to Article 8 of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 2005. A 'contact order' means an order requiring the person with whom a person lives, or is to live, to allow the child to visit or stay with a person named in the order, or for that person and the child to have contact with each other.

### **Care Order**

A care order places a child in the care of a designated authority. A court may only make a care order if it is satisfied the child is suffering or at risk of harm etc.

### **Child Assessment**

Application by an authority to request an order to authorise an assessment of a child's circumstances.

### **County court judge**

A judge who sits in the county court and the Crown Court.

### **Day sat**

This is a day on which a judge sat to hear court business. The information is organised into the various types of court business that a judge hears. The judge's day may consist of one or more sittings, at one or more court venues.

### **Declaration of Parentage order**

Order made to determine parentage on the foot of an application for maintenance in respect of a person who denies that he/she is a parent of the child.

### **District judge**

A judge who sits in the county court or the magistrates' court.

### **Education Supervision order**

Puts the child under the supervision of a designated education and library board. The education and library board may make an application in respect of a child of compulsory school age who is not being educated properly.

### **Emergency Protection order**

Gives the applicant parental responsibility for a child under the age of 18. It authorises the removal of the child at any time to accommodation provided by or on behalf of the applicant, and being kept there. The court may make 'an emergency protection order' if it is satisfied that there is reasonable cause to believe that the child is likely to suffer significant harm.

### **Family Assistance order**

This is a short term order made by agreement, under which an authority is required to make available a suitably qualified person to advise, assist and (where appropriate) befriend any person named in the order.

### **Family Business**

Non-criminal court proceedings generally relating to matters between a husband and wife, common-law partners, or children.

### **Family Care Centre**

A county court which generally hears appeals from Family Proceedings Courts, or family cases which are more complex in nature.

### **Family Proceedings Court**

A court of summary jurisdiction (constituted as a Youth Court) which hears proceedings under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 e.g. residence, contact with children.

### **Financial Provision order**

An order requiring either or both parents to make periodical payments or a lump sum payment to the applicant (the person with whom the child resides) for the benefit of the child.

### **High Court Judge**

A judge who sits in the High Court and the Crown Court to hear and determine civil, family, and criminal business.

### **Leave to change surname by which child is known**

An application for leave (permission) to change a child's name without a parent's consent. The court will give permission if it believes it is in the child's best interests to allow the name change.

### **Non molestation order**

This order prevents a person from molesting another person with whom they have had a relationship or they are related to.

Molestation encompasses any form of serious pestering or harassment and applies to any conduct which could properly be regarded as such a degree of harassment as to call for the intervention of the court. A 'non-molestation' order may contain one or both of the following:

- (a) A provision prohibiting a person from molesting another person.
- (b) A provision prohibiting the respondent from molesting a child.

### **Occupation order**

Occupation orders declare, confer or regulate occupation (not ownership) rights in the family home between those in certain family or domestic relationships. These orders, if combined with a non-molestation order, may be used for protective purposes. Alternatively, they may be used to declare or regulate the right of occupation in the home in cases where protection is not an issue. An occupation order is available between parties who have had a relationship or are related.

### **Parental Responsibility order**

Outlines the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his / her property. It may also include certain rights which a guardian may exercise.

### **Prohibited steps order**

An order which prevents a parent from taking specific actions as part of their normal parental responsibilities to a child.

### **Recovery order**

An order which generally directs the return of a child who has been taken away unlawfully; has run away or is missing. The order may permit certain actions to be taken (like entering property) to enable it to be carried out.

### **Residence order**

An order detailing with whom a child shall live. This is generally following the breakdown of a relationship, but can arise in other circumstances e.g. if the child's parents have died.

### **Secure Accommodation order**

Accommodation provided for a continuous period of more than 24 hours, designed to restrict liberty.

### **Sitting**

This is a period of work by a judge in a single courtroom on a single day. Several types of business may be heard at one sitting. Business heard in different courtrooms, whether at the same venue or elsewhere, is counted as separate sittings.

### **Specific issue order**

An order which addresses a specific matter that has arisen relating to the parental responsibility of a child e.g. which school shall they attend; what religion shall they be brought up in.

### **Strike out order**

Striking out means the court ordering written material to be deleted so that it may no longer be relied upon.

### **Supervision Order**

Puts a child under the supervision of a designated authority. A supervision order may require a child:

- (i) To comply with direction given by a supervisor as regards residence, reporting and participating in activities.
- (ii) To keep the supervisor informed of any change in address and allow the supervisor to visit at the place where he is living.

### **Withdrawn**

An order which removes a case from court, for a variety of reasons. The court action then ceases.

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