

Mortgages: Actions for Possession Bulletin Background Quality Report



Background Quality Assessment

This section provides information about the quality of the data used to produce this publication, and any statistics derived from these data.

Dimension	Assessment by the author
Introduction:-	<p>The publication entitled Mortgages: Actions for Possession Bulletin is produced quarterly by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) team within the Analytical Services Group (ASG), a branch of statisticians from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) located within the Department of Justice (DoJ); it has been published since 2013. The reports are available to download from the DoJ website (opens in a new window) and are published in line with the ASG Customer Service and Engagement Statement, Policy 6 in the Code of Practice for Statistics – Policies and Statements PDF (536 KB) (opens in a new window).</p> <p>The report presents statistical information for cases received (i.e. writs and originating summonses issued), cases disposed and final orders made in respect of mortgages in the Chancery Division of the Northern Ireland High Court.</p> <p>The statistics are produced using administrative data primarily sourced from the Integrated Court Operations System (ICOS), a live operating system used in each court tier to process every part of the court business from receipt of payments through to the production of final orders made.</p> <p>Information is based on data extracted at end of January, April, July and October each year, for example data covering the quarter January to March were extracted at the end of April, April to June were extracted at the end of July, July to September were extracted at the end of October, and October to December were extracted at the end of January.</p> <p>More detail can be found in the associated Quality Assurance of Administrative Data (QAAD) report.</p>

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<p>Relevance:- <i>The degree to which the statistical product meets user needs in both coverage and content.</i></p>	<p>The information in the publication is used by NICTS policy officials in their role assisting and advising the Minister for Justice to discharge their duties. It is also used to answer NI Assembly and Justice committee questions and to inform requests and queries from other Government organisations, the media and the general public.</p> <p>User needs were identified through an online customer survey undertaken in June 2020 PDF (946 KB) (opens in a new window).</p> <p>Further information on the quality assurance information checks that are undertaken can be found in the QAAD report.</p>
<p>Accuracy and reliability:- <i>The proximity between an estimate and the unknown true value.</i></p>	<p>These statistics are sourced from administrative systems used in each court tier to process every part of the court business from receipt of payments through to the production of final orders made. The information is not a sample but a complete data set of all relevant cases recorded within the time period reported on.</p> <p>Where records have been updated on the systems retrospectively, these updates may be missed if the data were downloaded too early. To minimise the impact of this, the data are extracted around 4 weeks after the end of the reporting period; this allows for the updating and completion of records across the systems concerned.</p> <p>There is no absolute means of verifying if information has been entered incorrectly, or not at all. However, as ICOS is the main source of information used to manage day to day business within NICTS it needs to be highly accurate. Consequently each court division has a case progression officer who is responsible for monitoring accuracy levels on ICOS and for promoting awareness of the impact that errors could have.</p>

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<p>Accuracy and reliability continued:-</p>	<p>Numerous validation checks are carried out during the course of each year, by a number of parties, including NISRA statisticians, to ensure the data are fit for purpose. In relation to potential sources of bias and error, further details can also be found in the QAAD report.</p> <p>Users should note that some published figures may not add to the totals due to rounding.</p>																		
<p>Timeliness and punctuality:- <i>Timeliness refers to the time gap between publication and the reference period. Punctuality refers to the gap between planned and actual publication dates.</i></p>	<p>The processes used in producing this report are continually being streamlined, while at the same time maintaining or improving the accuracy of the data. The gap between the reference date and the publication date is due to the time allowed for the updating of administrative records and the time it took to resolve various data quality issues.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="537 668 1207 1142"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="537 668 956 704">Report Period</th> <th data-bbox="956 668 1207 704">Publication Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="537 725 956 761">July to September 2020</td> <td data-bbox="956 725 1207 761">13/11/20</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="537 775 956 811">April to June 2020</td> <td data-bbox="956 775 1207 811">14/08/20</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="537 825 956 861">January to March 2020</td> <td data-bbox="956 825 1207 861">17/07/20</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="537 875 956 911">October to December 2019</td> <td data-bbox="956 875 1207 911">14/02/20</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="537 925 956 961">July to September 2019</td> <td data-bbox="956 925 1207 961">15/11/19</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="537 975 956 1011">April to June 2019</td> <td data-bbox="956 975 1207 1011">17/08/19</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="537 1025 956 1061">January to March 2019</td> <td data-bbox="956 1025 1207 1061">17/05/19</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="537 1075 956 1110">October to December 2018</td> <td data-bbox="956 1075 1207 1110">15/02/19</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The report for January to March 2020 was delayed beyond May because of the impact of Covid-19 on resources.</p>	Report Period	Publication Date	July to September 2020	13/11/20	April to June 2020	14/08/20	January to March 2020	17/07/20	October to December 2019	14/02/20	July to September 2019	15/11/19	April to June 2019	17/08/19	January to March 2019	17/05/19	October to December 2018	15/02/19
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<p>Accessibility and clarity:- Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data, also reflecting the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of metadata, illustrations and accompanying advice.</p>	<p>Accessibility to the statistics for this publication are in line with those detailed in the ASG Customer Service and Engagement Statement, Policy 6 in the Code of Practice for Statistics – Policies and Statements PDF (536 KB) (opens in a new window).</p> <p>No issues relating to accessibility or clarity were identified during a Customer Survey undertaken in June 2020 PDF (946 KB) (opens in a new window).</p> <p>The report contains contact details for further information and is available to download from the DoJ website (opens in a new window), along with reports from previous years.</p> <p>The data presented in the report are also available in Open Document Spreadsheet (ODS) format on the DoJ website (opens in a new window).</p> <p>Explanatory information including sources, discontinuities and missing data have been included.</p>
<p>Coherence and comparability:- Coherence is the degree to which data that are derived from different sources or methods, but refer to the same topic, are similar. Comparability is the degree to which data can be compared over time and domain.</p>	<p>The court structure of Northern Ireland does not equate to that in England, Wales, Scotland or the Republic of Ireland. Direct comparisons between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK and Ireland therefore cannot be made.</p> <p>Similar information for England and Wales is published on a quarterly basis in the Mortgage and Landlord Statistics Publication:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mortgage-and-landlord-possession-statistics</p>

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<p>Assessment of user needs and perceptions:- <i>The process for finding out about users and uses, and their views on the statistical products.</i></p>	<p>The ASG Customer Service and Engagement details ASGs customer engagement policy and can be found at Policy 6 in the Code of Practice for Statistics – Policies and Statements PDF (536 KB) (opens in a new window).</p> <p>An online customer survey was undertaken in June 2020 PDF (946 KB) (opens in a new window). Almost all the respondents (93%) worked for The Northern Ireland Civil Service or other Agency; the remainder were other non-NICS public sector employees or from academia. The most frequently stated reason for using the publication was policy making/policy monitoring.</p> <p>All respondents said that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the publication overall. All respondents (100%) said that the statistics fully or mostly met their needs.</p> <p>Regular meetings also take place with key users within the NICTS.</p>
<p>Trade-offs between output and quality components:-</p>	<p>No trade-offs applied.</p>
<p>Performance, cost and respondent burden:- <i>The effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the statistical output.</i></p>	<p>There is no respondent burden, since the data are held on an administrative system, and data on new cases are automatically collected as part of the Criminal Justice process.</p> <p>The quarterly operational cost (staff time) of producing the report is approximately 7 days.</p>

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<p>Confidentiality, transparency and security:- <i>The procedures and policy used to ensure sound confidentiality, security and transparent practices.</i></p>	<p>The ASG Confidentiality and Protection Arrangements statement, Policy 2 in ASGs Policies and Statements PDF (536 KB) (opens in a new window), sets out ASG's arrangement for maintaining the confidentiality of the statistical data used in this publication.</p> <p>All staff involved are trained on the protocols for protecting and maintaining the confidentiality of the data. NISRA follows the 'National Statistician's Guidance: Confidentiality of Official Statistics' in the collection and dissemination of this report. The guidance can be found on the GSS website (opens in a new window).</p> <p>Data are held on a network that is only accessible to the few statisticians who need access. Printouts containing individual records or small cell sizes are locked away and shredded as soon as possible.</p> <p>Standard disclosure control methodology is applied to the data. This ensures that information attributable to an individual is not identifiable in any published outputs and that the outputs are only seen by authorised staff prior to their publication.</p>