

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 the 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</p>

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Introduction continued:-	<p>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 (opens in a new window).</p>
Relevance:- <i>The degree to which the statistical product meets user needs in both coverage and content.</i>	<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 are identified through biennial online customer surveys, the most recent undertaken in Autumn 2022 PDF (946 KB).</p> <p>Further information on the quality assurance information checks that are undertaken can be found in the QAAD report (opens in a new window).</p>

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<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.</p> <p>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> <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 (opens in a new window).</p> <p>Users should note that some published figures may not add to the totals due to rounding.</p>

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<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 statisticians producing the report continually look for ways that the processes can be 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="446 499 1852 1256"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="446 499 888 535">Report Period</th> <th data-bbox="888 499 1852 535">Publication Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="446 585 888 621">July to September 2022</td> <td data-bbox="888 585 1852 621">25/11/22</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="446 671 888 706">April to June 2022</td> <td data-bbox="888 671 1852 706">19/08/22</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="446 756 888 792">January to March 2022</td> <td data-bbox="888 756 1852 792">20/05/22</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="446 842 888 878">October to December 2021</td> <td data-bbox="888 842 1852 878">18/02/22</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="446 928 888 963">July to September 2021</td> <td data-bbox="888 928 1852 963">12/11/21</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="446 1013 888 1049">April to June 2021</td> <td data-bbox="888 1013 1852 1049">13/08/21</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="446 1099 888 1135">January to March 2021</td> <td data-bbox="888 1099 1852 1135">14/05/21</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="446 1185 888 1220">October to December 2020</td> <td data-bbox="888 1185 1852 1220">12/02/21</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Report Period	Publication Date	July to September 2022	25/11/22	April to June 2022	19/08/22	January to March 2022	20/05/22	October to December 2021	18/02/22	July to September 2021	12/11/21	April to June 2021	13/08/21	January to March 2021	14/05/21	October to December 2020	12/02/21
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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 Autumn 2022 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>

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<p>Coherence and comparability:-</p> <p><i>Coherence is the degree to which data that are derived from different sources or methods, but refer to the same topic, are similar.</i></p> <p><i>Comparability is the degree to which data can be compared over time and domain.</i></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><u>Ministry of Justice: Mortgages and landlord possession statistics</u></p>
<p>Trade-offs between output and quality components:-</p>	<p>No trade-offs applied.</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 Policy details ASGs commitment to and engagement with users 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 Autumn 2022 PDF (946 KB) (opens in a new window). The vast majority of respondents (88%) worked for The Northern Ireland Civil Service or other Agency; the remainder were from academia and other non-NICS public sector employees. The most frequently stated reasons for using the publication were policy/performance/resource related, and media/public interest related.</p> <p>All respondents (100%) said that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the publication overall and that the statistics fully or mostly met their needs.</p> <p>Regular meetings also take place with key users within the NICTS.</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 8 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.</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> <p>The pre-release access list for the report is reviewed on a quarterly basis. The named individuals are checked to ensure that they are the correct contact and that they are available on the day before the release of the report (if they are not then they can nominate a deputy). A guidance document is also sent to those on the revised list explaining to them their obligations about data disclosure prior to the publication of the report.</p>