

# Judicial Statistics

2022

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## Key Findings

This report provides an overview of Children Order and County, Court of Appeal, Crown, High and Magistrates' Courts business during 2022 and how it compares with the comparative figures for the previous year. The key findings are summarised below -

### Children Order

- During the year there were 1,994 sittings (5,817 hours), 4,295 Children Order applications received and 4,489 disposed.
- At 72% the most common reason for transferring children order applications was complexity, the most common reason each year across the five year time series.
- In terms of orders made, 1,875 were own motion, 9,004 were interim and 6,053 were final.
- The average waiting time for applications disposed was 54.4 weeks for public and 36.6 weeks for private law.
- Average processing times in weeks for both public and private law applications have generally increased over the last five years.

### County Court

- County Court and District Judges sat a total of 4,684 sitting days during the year. Within those days 2,406 (51%) were majority Crown Court days, 1,558 (33%) were majority County Court Judge civil days, and 720 (15%) were majority District Judge civil days.
- In terms of receipts there were 9,821 Civil bills, 148 equity, 746 ejectment and 7,641 small claims cases received.
- In terms of disposals there were 8,555 Civil bills, 106 equity, 439 ejectment and 6,466 small claims cases disposed.
- 1,628 divorce decrees were granted and 1,601 decrees absolute issued.
- There was a general increase in the number of cases received and disposed and the time taken to disposal fluctuated according to the different business areas compared with figures for the previous year.

### Court of Appeal

- Judges sat a total of 69 days on criminal Court of Appeal business and 149 days on civil Court of Appeal business.
- There were 95 criminal appeals received and 96 disposed, and 101 civil appeals received and 95 disposed.

### Crown Court

- During the year there were 2,753 Crown Court sittings with 1,297 cases and 1,587 defendants received and 1,409 cases and 1,765 defendants disposed.
- Average time from committal to hearing was 173 days and from conviction to disposal was 82 days.
- In comparison to the previous year the number of cases and defendants received decreased and the number of disposals increased.

### High Court

- There were 2,127 High Court sitting days during the year. The highest proportion of these days was spent on Judicial Reviews business (17%).
- The Chancery Division received 1,155 and disposed of 1,040 cases. Of the 1,155 cases received 72% were Chancery, 16% bankruptcy and 12% companies.
- In terms of King's Bench business, 3,853 writs and originating summons were received and 2,039 were disposed; 1,734 applications were received and 1,469 applications were disposed.
- There were 292 applications for leave to apply for Judicial Review, 96 applications for Judicial Review and 3 ancillary applications received.
- There were 84 adoption cases and applications received and 92 disposed. The average time taken from issue to disposal was 35 weeks.
- There were 2,573 divorce petitions received (1,055 (41%) for 2 years separation with consent), 808 decrees granted and 741 decrees absolute issued.

### Magistrates' Court

- Within the 4,358 Magistrates' sitting days during the year, 72% were adult criminal, 6% youth criminal and 22% civil and family days.
- There were 319 new civil applications, 3,579 new family applications and 37,339 new adult and 1,031 new youth defendants received.
- In terms of disposals there were 286 civil and 3,308 family applications and 36,554 adult and 982 youth defendants disposed.
- The average waiting times from summons/charge to disposal in the adult and youth criminal courts were 16 and 20 weeks respectively; from date of receipt to disposal the average waiting time was 34 weeks for civil applications and 9 weeks for family applications.
- All parameters, except family applications, were higher than the comparative figures for the previous year; disposals were all lower, with the exception of civil applications which increased by 11%.

# 2

## Introduction

### About this report

This report is a National Statistics publication and 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 calendar year 2022 –

- 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);
- County Court business received and disposed, waiting times and sitting days in County Courts (section 4);
- Court of Appeal business received and disposed, waiting times and sitting days in Court of Appeal (section 5);
- The number of cases and defendants received and disposed, waiting times, pleas and findings and sittings at the Crown Court (section 6);
- Business received and disposed, waiting times and sitting days in the Chancery, Queen's Bench and Family Divisions of the High Court (section 7);
- 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 8);
- A summary of some other miscellaneous business areas such as Enforcement of Judgments Office, Coroners and Pension Appeal Tribunals (section 9); and
- A breakdown of the Judge Court sitting days split by the majority type of business heard (section 10).

It is important to note court activity during the year covered in this report has been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the courts continue to make more use of remote audio and video technology, the impact of COVID-19 can be seen in the figures. It is expected that the limited operation of the courts during the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to have an impact on many of the published figures in this and future releases.

Administrative case management reviews were introduced by the Lord Chief Justice as part of the coronavirus contingency arrangements. This has resulted in Judges investing significant time reviewing cases and making directions or orders administratively (where appropriate), and this has continued even as courts have resumed to support business recovery. This extra time is not recorded on the courts operating system (ICOS), and therefore is not reflected within the sittings times published within this report.

## 2 Introduction

Comparative information for the previous year is also provided, along with an indication of whether any change is higher or lower. Trend information for the last five years is also included for some of the statistics.

Background information about the Children Order and the County, Court of Appeal, Crown, High and Magistrates' Courts along with a glossary is available in the accompanying [user guide](#) and [background quality report](#).

Data in all tables and charts in the bulletin, along with supplementary data, are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

The next update covering the calendar year 2023 will be published in June 2024. A full [publication schedule](#) is available on the DoJ website.

# 3 Children Order

## Annual Business Overall

- During the year there were 1,994 sittings (5,817 hours), 4,295 Children Order applications received and 4,489 disposed.
- A total of 6,537 children were involved in the applications disposed. Gender and age breakdowns of the children were 51:49 male:female and 32% 0-4 years, 30% 5-8 years, 24% 9-12 years and 14% 13-16 years.
- Like each of the last five years, the most common reason for transferring children order applications during the year was complexity (72%, 498 of 690 reasons). This was followed by Consolidation (103), Jurisdiction (46), Returned to Lower Court (20), Urgency (9), Gravity (5), Convenience (4), Point of Law (4) and Separate Representation for Child (1).
- In terms of orders made –
  - 1,875 were own motion;
  - 9,004 were interim; and
  - 6,053 were final.
- The average waiting time for applications disposed was 54.4 weeks for public and 36.6 weeks for private law.
- Table 1 shows that all parameters were lower than the comparative figures the previous year except for the own motion orders made and the average waiting time for private law applications.

Table 1: Children Order Business, 2022 compared with 2021

	2022	2021	% change from 2021
Sittings	1,994	2,199	9%↓
Hours sat	5,817	6,417	9%↓
Applications received	4,295	4,851	11%↓
Applications disposed	4,489	4,928	9%↓
Number of children involved in applications disposed	6,537	7,087	8%↓
Own motions orders made	1,875	1,542	22%↑
Interim orders made	9,004	9,518	5%↓
Final orders made	6,053	6,678	9%↓
Average waiting time for disposal for public law (weeks)	54.4	57.2	5%↓
Average waiting time for disposal for private law (weeks)	36.6	36.0	2%↑

Supplementary data relating to the Children Order, are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

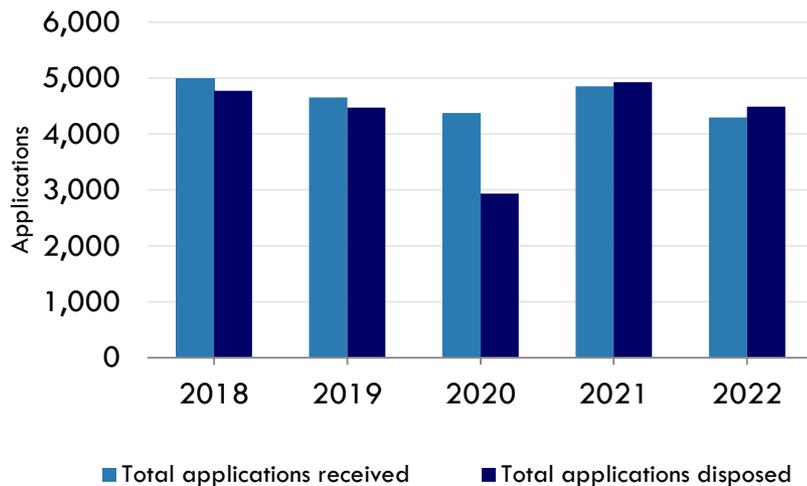
# 3

## Children Order

### Five Year Trend

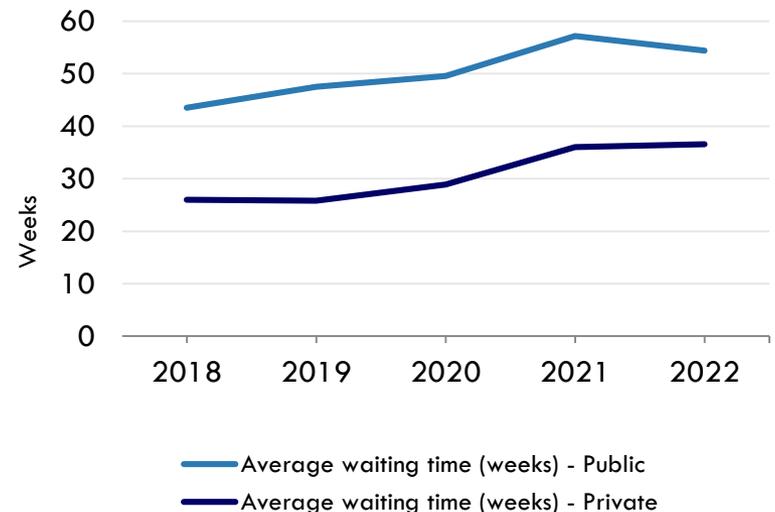
- Figure 1 shows the trend in applications received generally decreased between 2018 and 2020, before increasing by 11% between 2020 and 2021 and then decreasing by 11% again in 2022. The trend in applications disposed also decreased between 2018 and 2020, before increasing by 68% between 2020 and 2021 to 4,928 their highest level across the time series. The disposals then decreased again in 2022 by 9%. The disposals were at their lowest level across the time series in 2020, however this is due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore should be treated with caution.

Figure 1: Children Order applications received and disposed 2018 to 2022



- Figure 2 shows the average waiting times for public law has increased by 25% between 2018 (43.5) and 2022 (54.4). The average time peaked in 2021 at 57.2 weeks. 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 affect waiting times. The trend in average waiting times for private law applications between 2018 and 2022 increased by 41% from 26.0 to 36.6 weeks. Caution should be taken when interpreting these waiting times, as the 2020 and 2021 data has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 2: Average waiting times for applications disposed 2018 to 2022



# 4 | County Court

## Annual Business Overall

- County Court and District Judges sat a total of 4,684 sitting days during the year. Within those days 2,406 (51%) were majority Crown Court days, 1,558 (33%) were majority County Court Judge civil days, and 720 (15%) were majority District Judge civil days.
- During the year –
  - 9,821 Civil bills were received and 8,555 disposed.
  - In terms of cases 148 equity, 746 ejectment, 7,641 small claims and 4 criminal damage cases were received; 106 equity, 439 ejectment, 6,466 small claims and 10 criminal damage cases were disposed.
  - 1,628 divorce decrees were granted and 1,601 decrees absolute issued.
  - 234 licence applications were received and 245 disposed.
- Table 2 shows there was a general increase in the number of cases received and disposed compared with figures for the previous year. Average waiting times fluctuated according to the type of business when compared to the previous year.
- Supplementary data relating to the County Court, are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

Table 2: County Court Business, 2022 compared with 2021

	2022	2021	% change from 2021
Sitting days	4,684	4,534	3%↑
Civil bills received	9,821	9,120	8%↑
Civil bills disposed	8,555	8,573	<1%↓
Average time taken from issue to disposal of civil bill (weeks)	68	68	-
Equity cases received	148	160	8%↓
Equity cases disposed	106	103	3%↑
Average time taken from issue to disposal of equity cases (weeks)	105	98	7%↑
Ejectment cases received	746	342	118%↑
Ejectment cases disposed	439	284	55%↑
Average time taken from issue to disposal of ejectment cases (weeks)	46	46	-
Small claims received	7,641	5,450	40%↑
Small claims disposed	6,466	5,209	24%↑
Average time taken from issue to disposal of small claims cases (weeks)	35	53	34%↓
Criminal damage cases received	4	7	43%↓
Criminal damage cases disposed	10	6	67%↑
Divorce decrees granted	1,628	1,425	14%↑
Decree absolute issued	1,601	1,399	14%↑
Average time taken from issue to date divorce decree granted (weeks)	41	40	3%↑
Licences applications received	234	297	21%↓
Licences applications disposed	245	283	13%↓

# 4 County Court

## Five Year Trend

- Figures 3 and 4 show trend information for the number of civil bills with notice of intention received and civil bills disposed by disposal method.
- Figure 5 provides an overview of trends for ejection cases received and disposed.

Figure 3: Civil bills with notice of intention to defend received 2018 to 2022

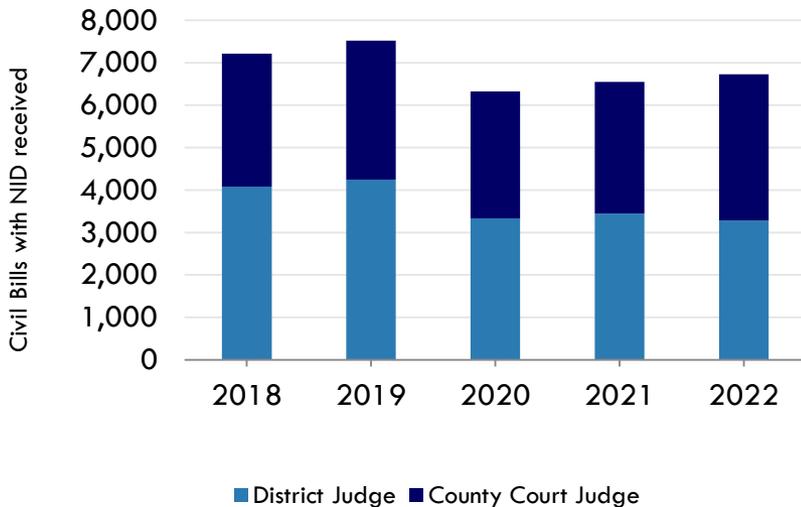


Figure 4: Civil bills disposed by method of disposal 2018 to 2022

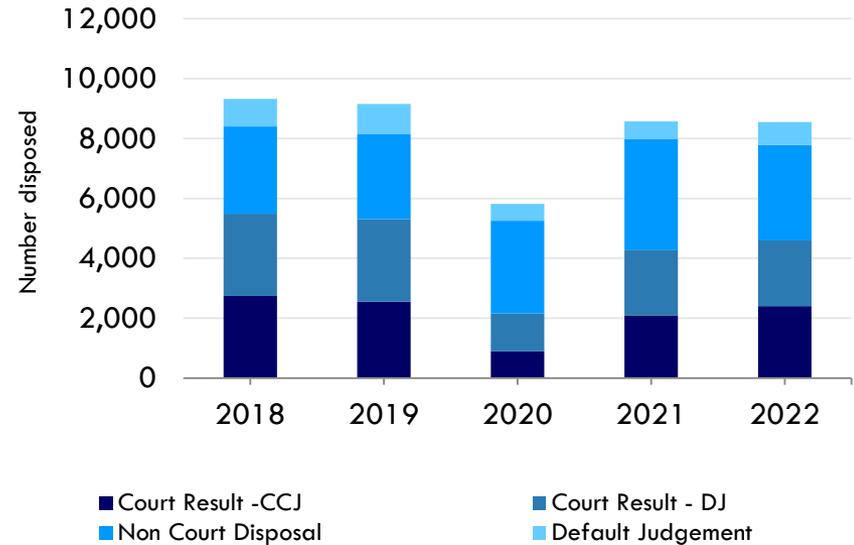
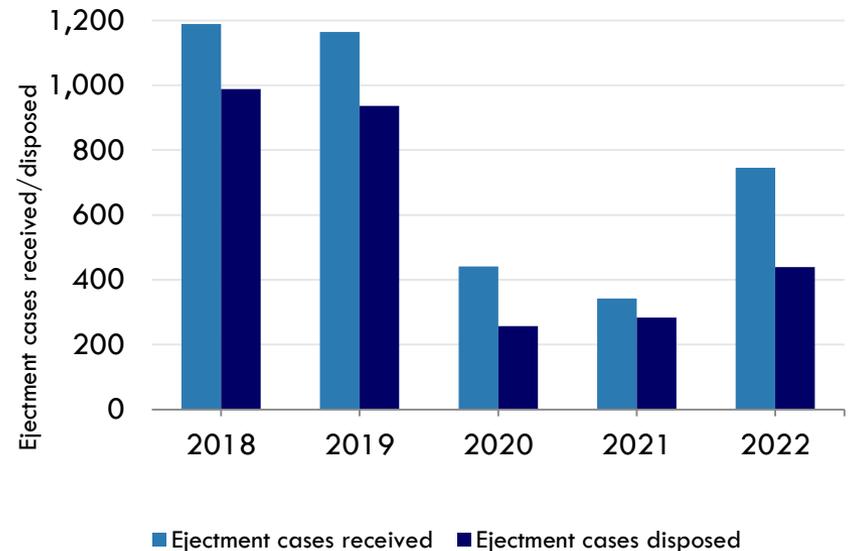


Figure 5: Ejection cases received and disposed 2018 to 2022



# 4 County Court

- Figure 6 provides an overview of trends for small claims received.
- Figure 7 provides an overview of trends for criminal damage cases received and disposed.
- Figure 8 provides an overview of number of divorce decrees granted by type.

Figure 6: Small claims cases received 2018 to 2022

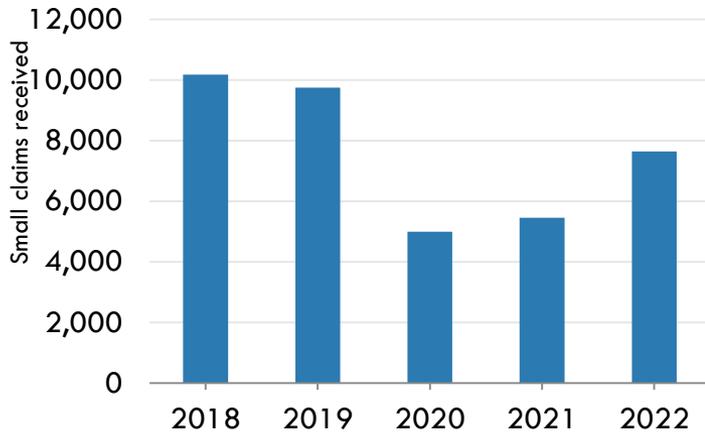


Figure 7: Criminal damage cases received and disposed 2018 to 2022

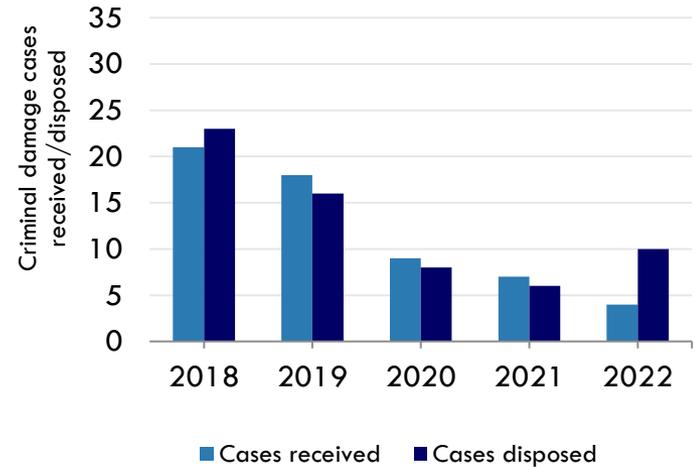
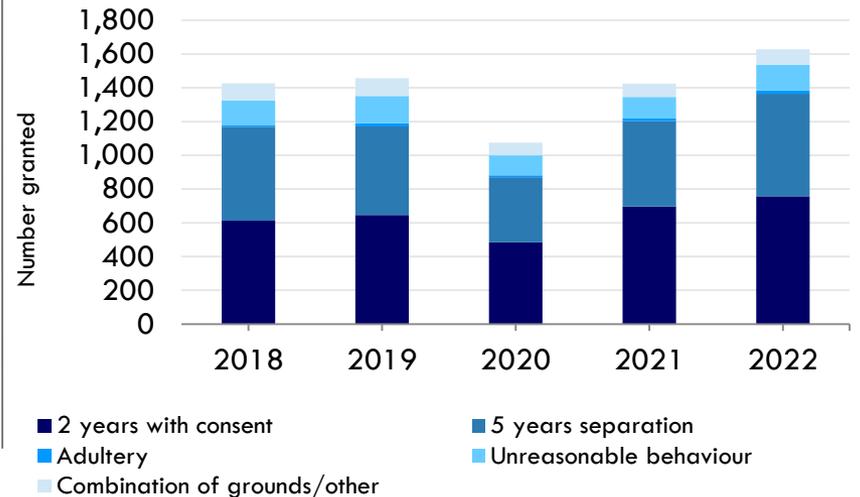


Figure 8: Divorce petitions by number of decrees granted by type 2018 to 2022



# 5 | Court of Appeal

## Annual Business Overall

- During the year there were 69 sitting days spent on criminal appeals and 149 sitting days on civil appeals.
- There were 95 criminal and 101 civil appeals received, and 96 criminal appeals and 95 civil appeals disposed.
- Compared to the previous year the number of criminal appeals received decreased and civil appeals received increased; disposals increased for both appeal types.
- Supplementary data relating to the Court of Appeal, are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

Figure 9: Court of Appeal Sitting Days 2018 to 2022

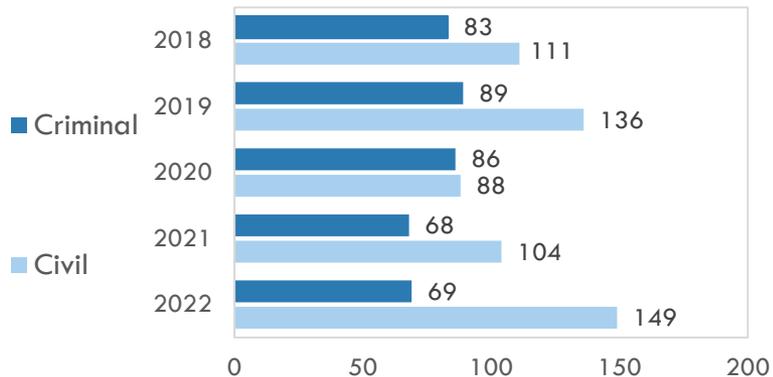


Table 3: Court of Appeal Business, 2022 compared with 2021

	2022	2021	% change from 2021
Criminal Appeal Court Sitting Days	69	68	1%↑
Civil Appeal Court Sitting Days	149	104	43%↑
Criminal Appeals received	95	99	4%↓
Criminal Appeals disposed	96	76	26%↑
Civil Appeals received	101	79	28%↑
Civil Appeals disposed	95	61	56%↑

# 6 Crown Court

## Annual Business Overall

- During the year there were 2,753 sittings (6,515 hours sat). County Court Judges disposed of 99% of defendants (1,739), a figure that has remained relatively stable over the last five years (98-99%).
- There were 1,297 cases and 1,587 defendants received during the year; 1,409 cases and 1,765 defendants were disposed. In comparison to the previous year the number of cases and defendants received decreased and disposals increased.
- Average time from committal to hearing was 173 days and from conviction to disposal was 82 days. Compared to the previous year, average time from committal to hearing and from conviction to disposal both increased.
- The majority of defendants disposed were charged with a combination of offences, a similar pattern seen in each of the last five years (Figure 10).
- Supplementary data relating to the Crown Court, are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

Figure 10: Crown Court defendants disposed by charge type 2022

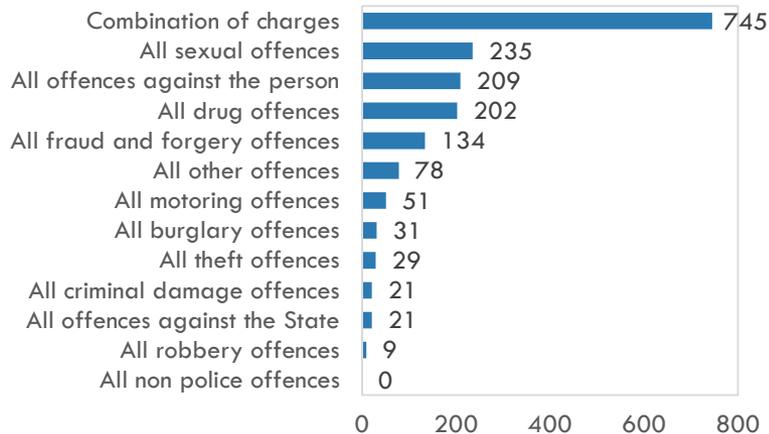


Table 4: Crown Court Business, 2022 compared with 2021

	2022	2021	% change from 2021
Sittings	2,753	2,366	16%↑
Hours sat	6,515	5,298	23%↑
Cases received	1,297	1,711	24%↓
Cases disposed	1,409	1,358	4%↑
Defendants received	1,587	2,148	26%↓
Defendants disposed	1,765	1,650	7%↑
Defendants pleading guilty to all charges	452	492	8%↓
Defendants found guilty on at least one charge	1,084	969	12%↑
Average time from committal to hearing (days)	173	143	21%↑
Average time from conviction to disposal (days)	82	60	37%↑

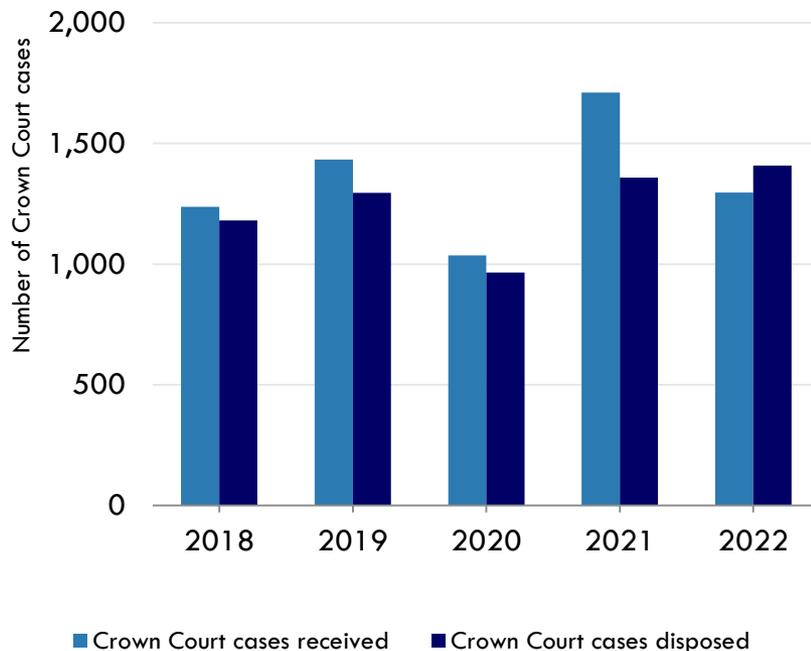
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## Crown Court

### Five Year Trend

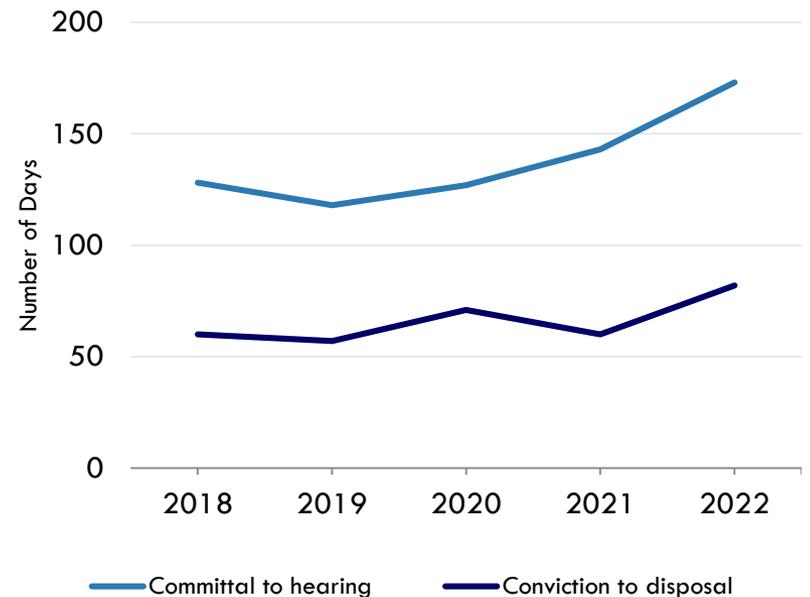
- Figure 11 shows Crown Court cases received fluctuated and cases disposed generally increased between 2018 and 2022; apart from a decline in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Figure 11: Crown Court cases received and disposed 2018 to 2022



- Figure 12 shows the average waiting times from committal to hearing peaked in 2022 at 173 days, however this figure will have been affected by the cases delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The average waiting times from conviction to disposal have fluctuated over the last five years peaking at 82 days in 2022. The 2020, 2021 and 2022 figures will have been affected by delays resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 12: Average Crown Court waiting times 2018 to 2022



# 7 | High Court

## Annual Business Overall

- There were 2,127 High Court sitting days during the year, the highest proportion of which was spent on Judicial Review business (17%).
- King's Bench business included –
  - 3,853 writs and originating summons received and 2,039 disposed;
  - 1,734 applications received and 1,469 disposed; and
  - 292 applications for leave to apply for Judicial Review, 96 applications for Judicial Review and 3 ancillary applications received.
- Chancery Division business included –
  - Receipt of 1,155 (72% which were Chancery, 16% bankruptcy and 12% companies cases) and disposal of 1,040 cases; and
  - 7,514 grants issued in the Probate office.

Table 5: High Court Business – King's Bench and Chancery Divisions, 2022 compared with 2021

	2022	2021	% change from 2021
Sitting days	2,127	2,074	3%↑
King's Bench Writs & originating summons received	3,853	3,710	4%↑
King's Bench Writs & originating summons disposed	2,039	1,677	22%↑
King's Bench Applications Received	1,734	1,780	3%↓
King's Bench Applications Disposed	1,469	1,377	7%↑
Applications for leave to apply for Judicial Review received	292	344	15%↓
Applications for Judicial Review received	96	121	21%↓
Ancillary applications received	3	5	40%↓
Chancery Division cases received	1,155	1,105	5%↑
Chancery Division cases disposed	1,040	912	14%↑
Grants issued in the Probate office	7,514	7,750	3%↓

# 7 | High Court

- Family Division business included –
  - 84 adoption cases and applications received and 92 disposed during the year;
  - 2,573 divorce petitions received (1,055 (41%) for 2 years with consent), 808 decrees granted (2 years with consent (292, 36%) and ‘Combination of grounds/ other’ (183, 23%)) and 741 decrees absolute issued;
  - 138 Official Solicitor’s Office Patients cases received and 116 disposed with a current caseload of 386 cases at the end of the year.
- All parameters except the Adoption average waiting times and the Minors cases received and disposed, increased compared to the previous year. Supplementary data relating to the High Court, are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

Table 5 continued: High Court Business – Family Division, 2022 compared with 2021

	2022	2021	% change from 2021
Adoption cases & applications received	84	71	18%↑
Adoption cases & applications disposed	92	50	84%↑
Average time taken from issue to disposal for adoption case/application (weeks)	35	44	20%↓
Divorce petitions received	2,573	2,525	2%↑
Decrees granted in High Court	808	713	13%↑
Decrees absolute issued	741	665	11%↑
Average time taken from issue of divorce petition to date decree granted (weeks)	58	51	14%↑
Official Solicitor’s Office Patients cases received	138	124	11%↑
Official Solicitor’s Office Patients cases disposed	116	76	53%↑
Official Solicitor’s Office Minors cases received	103	115	10%↓
Official Solicitor’s Office Minors cases disposed	81	108	25%↓

# 7 High Court

## Five Year Trend

- Figures 13 and 14 provide overviews of trends for Chancery cases and King’s Bench cases received.
- Figure 15 provides an overview for Judicial Reviews received.

Figure 13: Chancery cases received 2018 to 2022

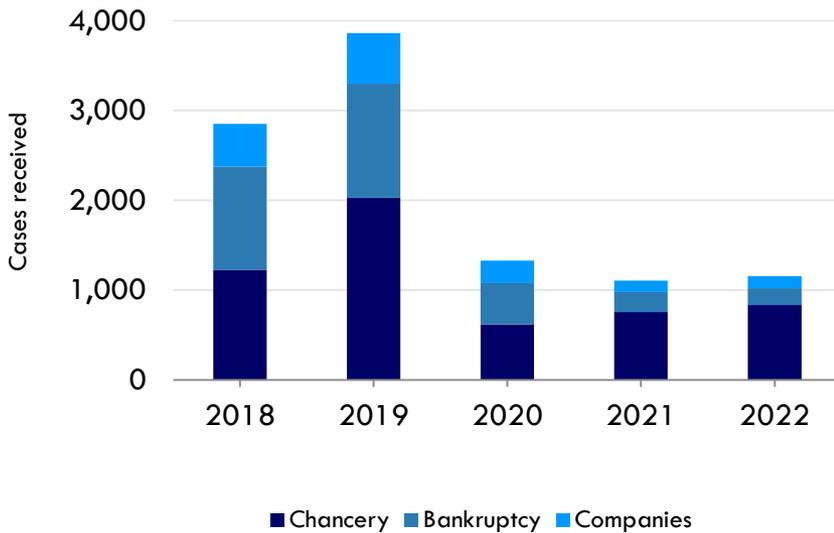


Figure 14: King’s Bench cases received 2018 to 2022

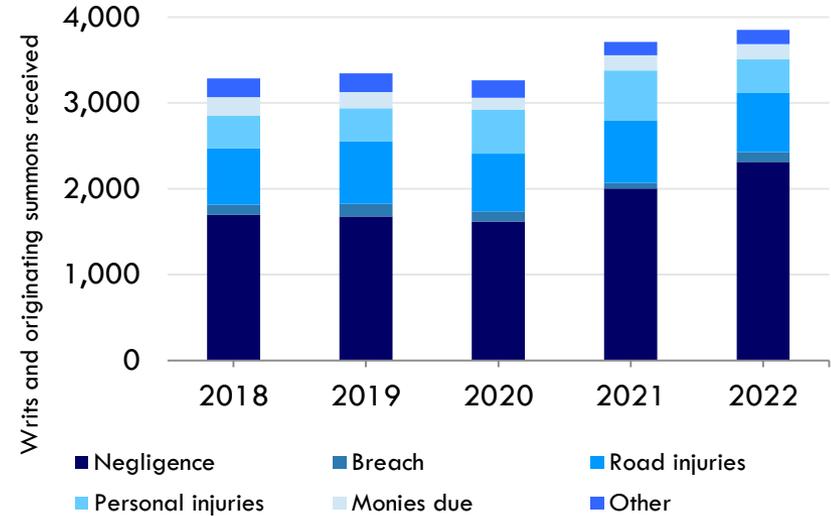
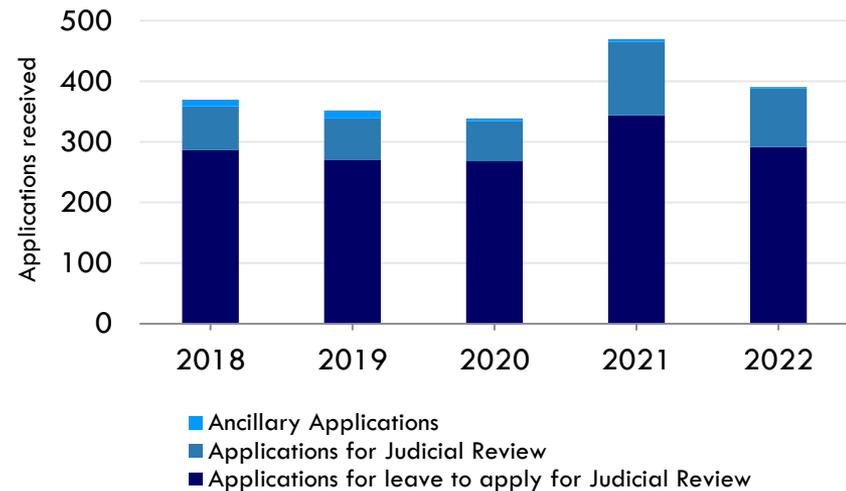


Figure 15: Applications for Judicial Review received 2018 to 2022



# 7 High Court

- Figure 16 provides an overview of adoption cases and applications received and disposed.
- Figure 17 provides an overview of decrees granted by type.

Figure 16: Adoption cases and applications received and disposed 2018 to 2022

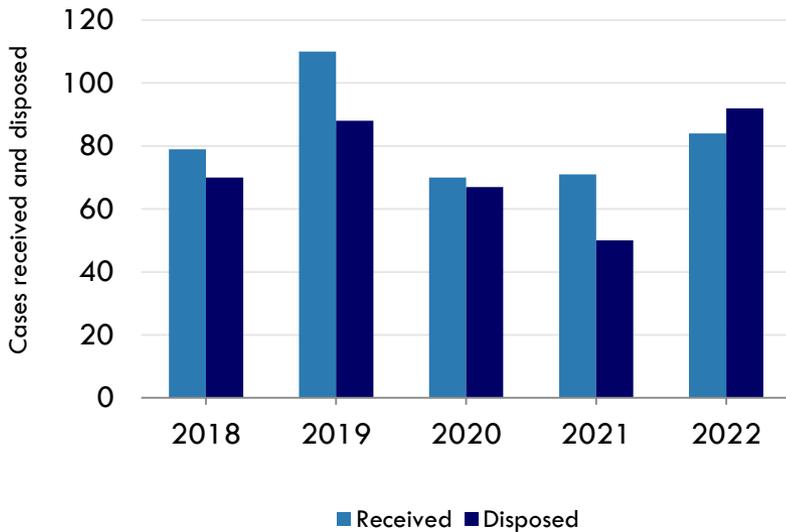
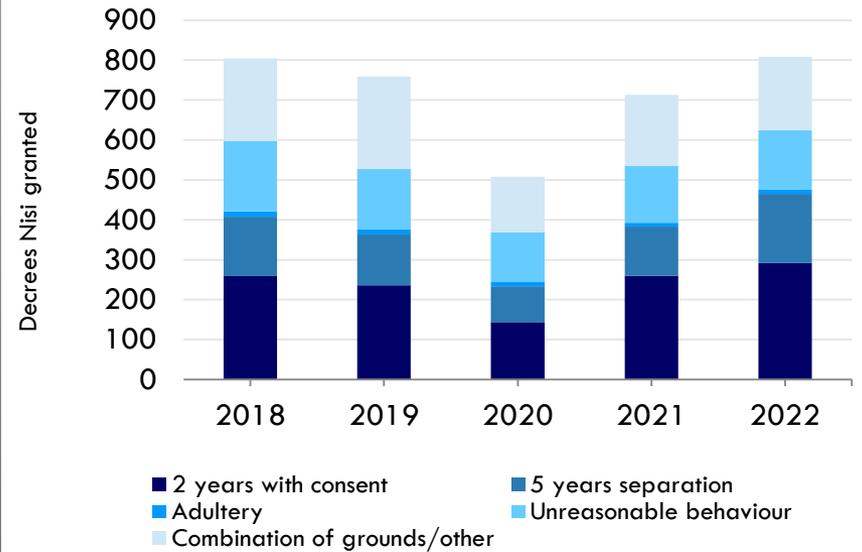


Figure 17: Decrees granted by type 2018 to 2022



## 8

## Magistrates' Court

## Annual Business Overall

- Within the 4,358 total sitting days, 72% were adult criminal, 6% were youth criminal and 22% were civil and family days.
- There were 319 new civil and 3,579 new family applications and 37,339 new adult and 1,031 new youth defendants received.

Table 6: Magistrates' Court Sitting Days, 2022 compared to 2021

	2022	2021	% change from 2021
Adult	3,138	3,203	2%↓
Youth	260	249	4%↑
Civil & Family	960	960	-
Total	4,358	4,412	1%↓

- There were 36,554 adult and 982 youth defendants and 286 civil applications and 3,308 family applications disposed.
- All parameters, except family applications, were higher than the comparative figures for the previous year; disposals were all lower, with the exception of civil applications which increased by 11%. Supplementary data relating to the Magistrates' Court, are available from the DoJ website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

Table 7: Magistrates' Court Business, 2022 compared with 2021

	Adult 2022	Adult 2021	% change from 2021	Youth 2022	Youth 2021	% change from 2021	Civil 2022	Civil 2021	% change from 2021	Family 2022	Family 2021	% change from 2021
Defendants or applications received	37,339	37,064	1%↑	1,031	980	5%↑	319	313	2%↑	3,579	4,295	17%↓
Defendants or applications disposed	36,554	37,064	1%↓	982	1,079	9%↓	286	258	11%↑	3,308	4,059	19%↓
Average waiting time (weeks)	16	17	6%↓	20	22	9%↓	34	33	3%↑	9	10	10%↓

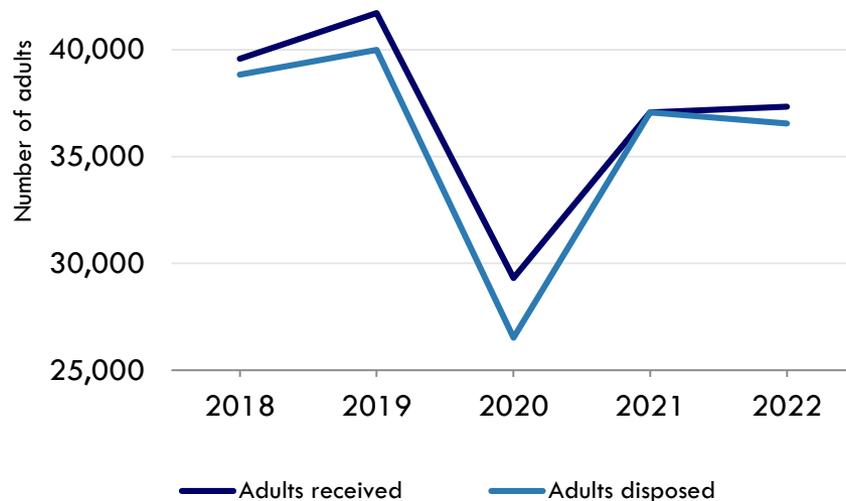
# 8

## Magistrates' Court

### Five Year Trend

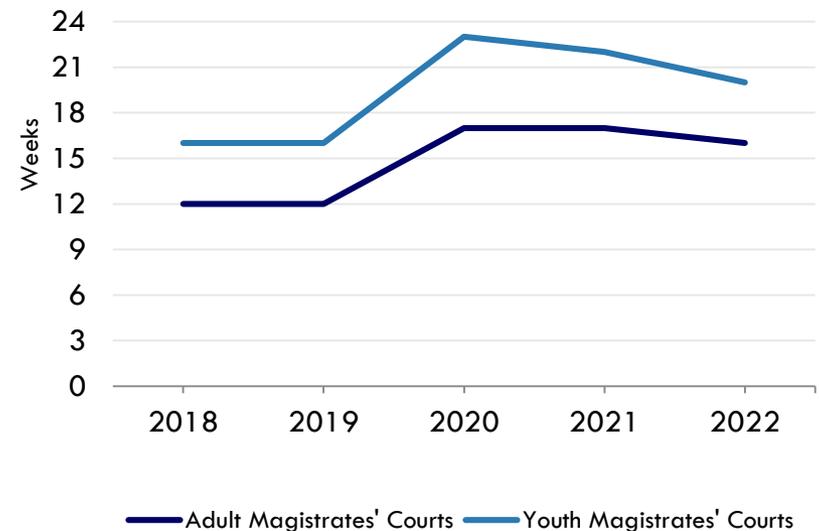
- Figure 18 shows the volume of both adult criminal defendants received and disposed over the last 5 years. The number received and disposed increased between 2018 and 2019 and then decreased by 30% and 34% respectively in 2020, before increasing again by 27% and 38% respectively between 2020 and 2022.
- The volume of youth defendants received and disposed followed a similar pattern, also both decreasing by 30% and 34% respectively between 2019 and 2020 before increasing again in by 15% and 19% respectively between 2020 and 2022.

Figure 18: Adult criminal defendants received and disposed 2018 to 2022



- Figure 19 shows the average waiting time in the adult Magistrates' court from summons / charge to disposal had remained stable at 12 weeks from 2018 to 2019, before increasing to 17 weeks in 2020 and 2021, before decreasing to 16 weeks in 2022.
- The average waiting time in the youth court from summons / charge to disposal had remained stable at 16 weeks from 2018 to 2019, before increasing to 23 weeks in 2020, and then decreasing to 22 weeks in 2021, before decreasing again to 20 weeks in 2022.

Figure 19: Average waiting times in adult and youth Magistrates' Courts (summons/charge to disposal weeks) 2018 to 2022



## 9

## Miscellaneous

During the year the miscellaneous business areas receipts and disposals fluctuated between 2022 and 2021. The EJO Notices of Intention to enforce lodged, applications for enforcement accepted and repossessions completed increased by 14%, 14% and 103% respectively.

Table 8: Enforcement of Judgments Office, Social Security Commissioners, Pension Appeal Tribunals and Coroners Business, 2022 compared with 2021

Year		2022	2021	% change from 2021
EJO	Notices of Intention to enforce lodged	3,434	3,021	14%↑
	Applications for enforcement accepted	2,056	1,797	14%↑
	Repossessions Completed	221	109	103%↑
Social Security Commissioners	Leave to appeal to Commissioners received	40	57	30%↓
	Leave to appeal to Commissioners cleared	49	94	48%↓
	Appeals to Commissioners received	41	66	38%↓
	Appeals to Commissioners cleared	39	63	38%↓
Pensions Appeal Tribunals	Entitlement Appeals received	33	24	38%↑
	Entitlement Appeals cleared	26	35	26%↓
	Assessment Appeals received	47	30	57%↑
	Assessment Appeals cleared	24	36	33%↓
	Specified Decision Appeals received	10	7	43%↑
	Specified Decision Appeals cleared	6	7	14%↓
	Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Appeals received	23	12	92%↑
	Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Appeals cleared	19	21	10%↓
Coroners	Number of deaths reported	4,391	3,535	24%↑
	Number of inquests held	69	59	17%↑
	No inquest with post mortem	1,061	1,114	5%↓
	No inquest and no post mortem	1,982	1,163	70%↑
	Other disposals of registered entries	860	1,007	15%↓

# 10 | Sitting Days

Judge court sitting days increased during 2022 compared with 2021 for High Court, County Court and Deputy District Judges.

*Administrative case management reviews were introduced by the Lord Chief Justice as part of the [coronavirus contingency](#) arrangements. This has resulted in Judges investing significant time reviewing cases and making directions or orders administratively (where appropriate), and this has continued even as courts have resumed to support business recovery. This extra time is not recorded on the courts operating system (ICOS), and therefore is not reflected within the sitting times published within this report.*

Table 9: Judge Court Sitting Days, 2022 compared with 2021

	2022	2021	% change from 2021
High Court Judge Sitting Days	2,127	2,074	3%↑
High Court Judge Average Sitting Time	1:51	1:50	1%↑
County Court Judge Sitting Days	3,529	3,291	7%↑
County Court Judge Average Sitting Time	2:35	2:37	1%↓
Deputy County Court Judge Sitting Days	223	244	9%↓
Deputy County Court Judge Average Sitting Time	1:44	2:01	14%↓
District Judge Sitting Days	719	828	13%↓
District Judge Average Sitting Time	2:09	2:26	12%↓
Deputy District Judge Sitting Days	213	171	25%↑
Deputy District Judge Average Sitting Time	1:48	1:56	7%↓
District Judge Magistrates' Court Sitting Days	4,358	4,412	1%↓
District Judge Magistrates' Average Sitting Time	3:29	3:43	6%↓

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

# 1 | 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 or the date an applicant withdraws or discontinues their application prior to the hearing, changing the case status to dealt with.

- Court of Appeal

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

# 11

## 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.

- **Miscellaneous**

Receipts are counted from the date the case is entered onto the specific operating system used by the business area. Disposals are counted from the result date that the case was finally marked as closed on the operating system.

- **Judge Court Sitting Days**

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