

COURTS SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT



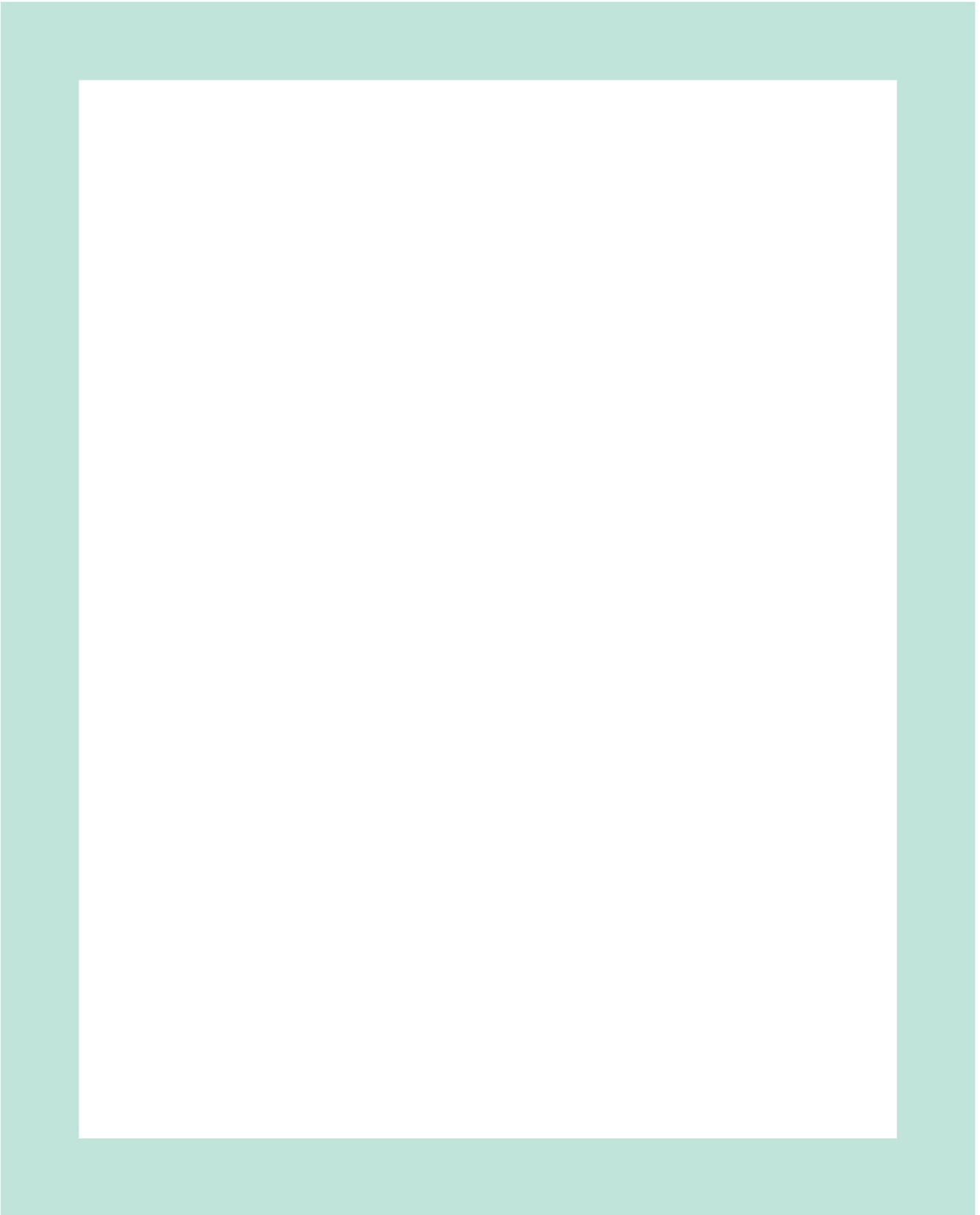
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COURTS SERVICE
An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna

Mission Statement

To manage the courts, support the judiciary and provide a high quality and professional service to all users of the courts.



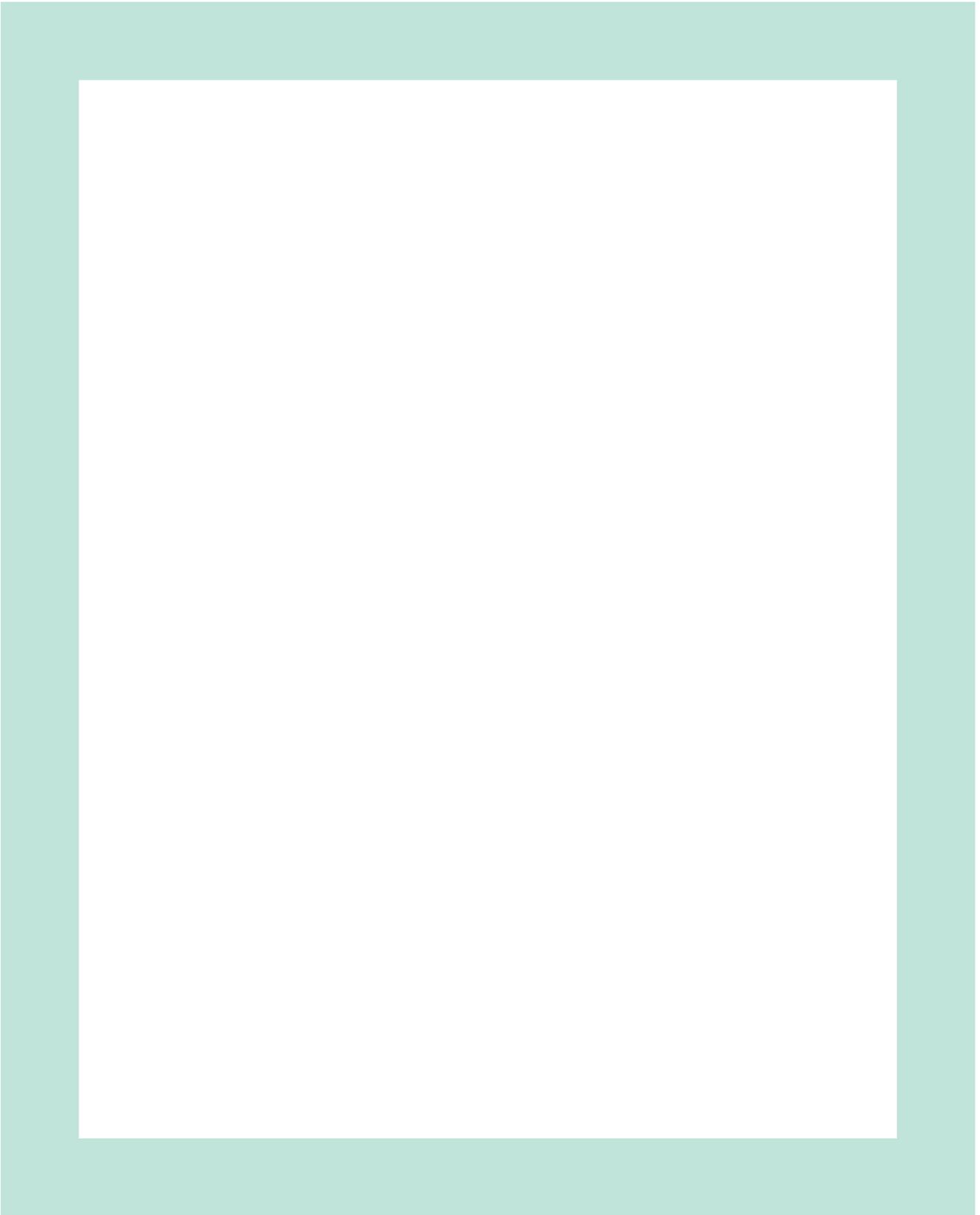
Longford Courthouse



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Cork Courthouse



Message from the Chief Justice and Chairperson of the Board



This Report highlights the seventh successive year of development and innovation in the increasing range of services provided by the Courts Service in support of the administration of justice in Ireland.

Since the establishment of the Courts Service there has been a need not only to focus on the maintenance and improvement of existing services but also on the need to innovate, adapt existing services and create new services to meet the challenges and problems posed by a society which is itself in a continuous state of change. Among the factors impacting on the work of the courts are: the growth in population, including the development of new major population centres; the need to provide extra services for immigrants and young offenders coming before the courts; and the expansion of the role of courts through new legislation and policies as well as the expansion in the volume of work of the courts.

To ensure that the courts can meet these challenges, the Courts Service can never stand still but must adopt a dynamic approach to its role and function from year to year. This it has succeeded in doing during 2006 as the Report demonstrates.

Any perusal of this Report will give the reader an insight into the nature and extent of the day to day work of the Courts Service as well as the many developments which this still relatively young public service has overseen. In 2006 many administrative improvements have been made, to take one example, in many District Court offices a new system of recording Court Orders has cut the

waiting time for such orders from 8 weeks to 3 days – a tremendous achievement.

2006 has also seen the introduction of many new projects, including the pilot family law reporting project and the Small Claims online system. Refurbishment of courthouses throughout the country has also continued apace. A primary function of the Courts Service is to provide support for the judiciary in the exercise of their judicial functions and many of the developments during 2006 were fundamental to that objective.

Overall, this report should lead to a greater understanding of the vast system of administration involving not only the Four Courts complex but more than one hundred court centres countrywide. In referring to the progressive evolution of the Courts Service during 2006, I must once again pay tribute to the commitment and spirit of innovation that is to be found among the personnel of the Service at all levels and throughout the country. I wish to express my deepest appreciation, and that of the Board, of the dedication of the Chief Executive Officer Mr P.J. Fitzpatrick, all Courts Service personnel and other agencies who continue to ensure that the challenges facing the administration of justice in today's society are being met with such success.

John L. Murray

Chief Justice of Ireland and Chairperson of the Courts Service Board

Introduction by the Chief Executive Officer



I am again very pleased to introduce the Annual Report of the Courts Service. 2006 was another busy and successful year of work and effort, change and development, and modernisation and growth.

All who work in the Courts Service have, through their efforts and attitudes, become champions of change. We continue to see major successes throughout the organisation on many levels: our building and information technology programmes; bringing the best services to the public by adapting work methods that provide a more customer friendly and centred service; offices embracing new technology, management tools and the development of access to offices and information which make court procedures more understandable and easier to access.

It is this desire for improvement combined with experience and knowledge developed over generations that has enabled the Service achieve so much in such a short time. A reflection on just some of the initiatives in 2006 illustrates the continued momentum:

- ▣ The Court of Criminal Appeal disposed of more cases than it received for the fourth consecutive year. This was as a result of increased sitting days and the monitoring/listing system put in place. By the end of 2006, only 19 of the outstanding appeals were lodged prior to 2005 and only 35 prior to 2006
- ▣ New *Customer Charters* were produced by Supreme, High, Circuit and District Court offices during the year. The Charters include the name of a Customer Liaison Officer for individual offices. They also provide information on matters relating to the service provided by the particular office including expected delivery times

- ▣ The *Legal Diary* section of our website was made available to users of Personal Digital Assistants in 2006 on a 24/7 basis 365 days per year. This allows court users access information about current and future court sittings using hand held computer devices
- ▣ An eSmall Claims system, *Small Claims Online* (www.smallclaims.ie), was implemented in 16 District Court offices in November 2006. This service is available on a 24/7 basis 365 days per year
- ▣ A pilot project commenced to report the work of the Family Law Courts for the first time ever. This includes the publication of detailed statistics and trends, publishing judgments, and reporting on proceedings in family law courts. The project provides very valuable information for the judiciary, legal practitioners, the media and the general public on family law matters
- ▣ The new Criminal Courts Complex was brought to contract stage.

These are but a very small sample of the initiatives outlined throughout this Report. Court statistics provide an insight into the busy, complex and yet business like manner of the courts system.

Seven years since our establishment, we are well on the way to reaching our goal of becoming a world class Service. This is reflected in the many visits we now receive each year from senior members of overseas judiciaries, government ministers and public officials. They visit to see our governance and structural arrangements and how we have sought to modernise support for the courts.

I would like to thank the Chief Justice and Chairperson of the Board, Board members, and the judiciary for their continued support and guidance during the past year.

Our staff have once again proved themselves to be second to none in their efforts – for that I extend my sincere appreciation and thanks.

We do not work in a vacuum. We work with the many agencies in the justice sector. I extend our gratitude to the two branches of the legal profession, An Garda Síochána, the Probation Service, the Prison Service, victim support agencies and other agencies in the justice sector for their continued cooperation with our modernisation programme.

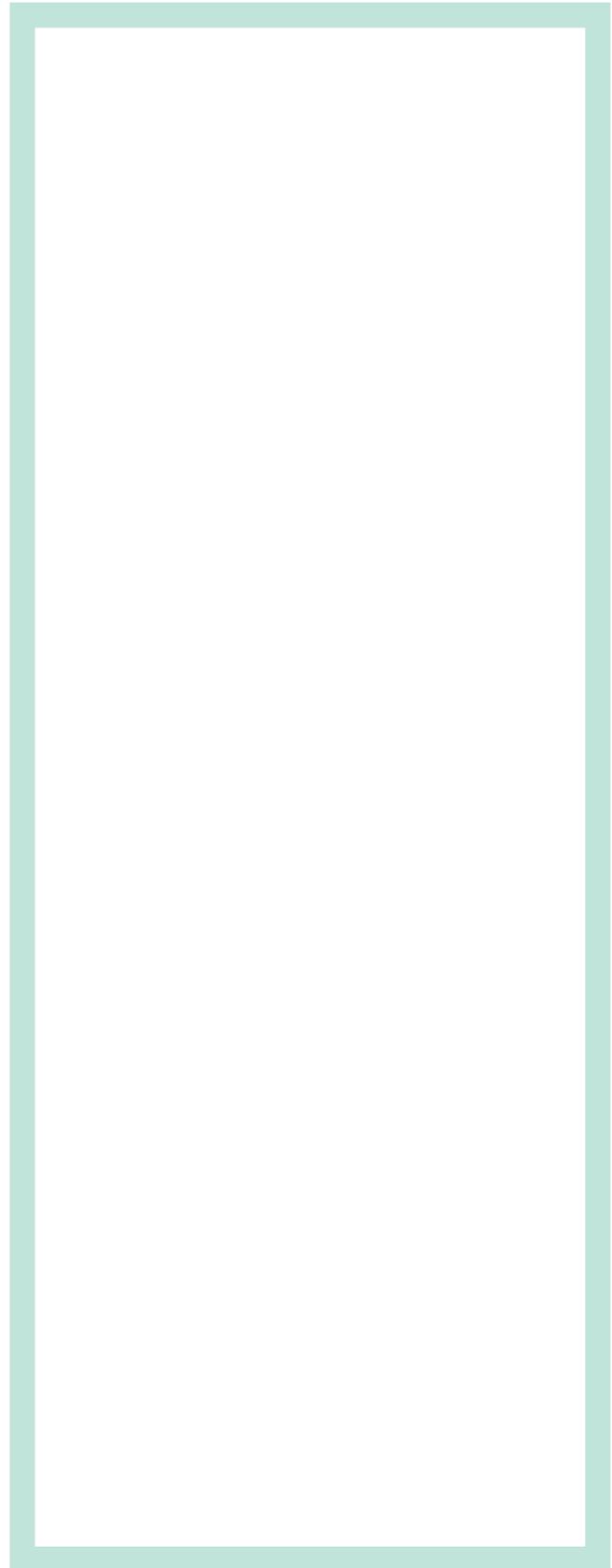
I also thank the Chairman and staff of the Office of Public Works for their ongoing support for our nationwide building programme.

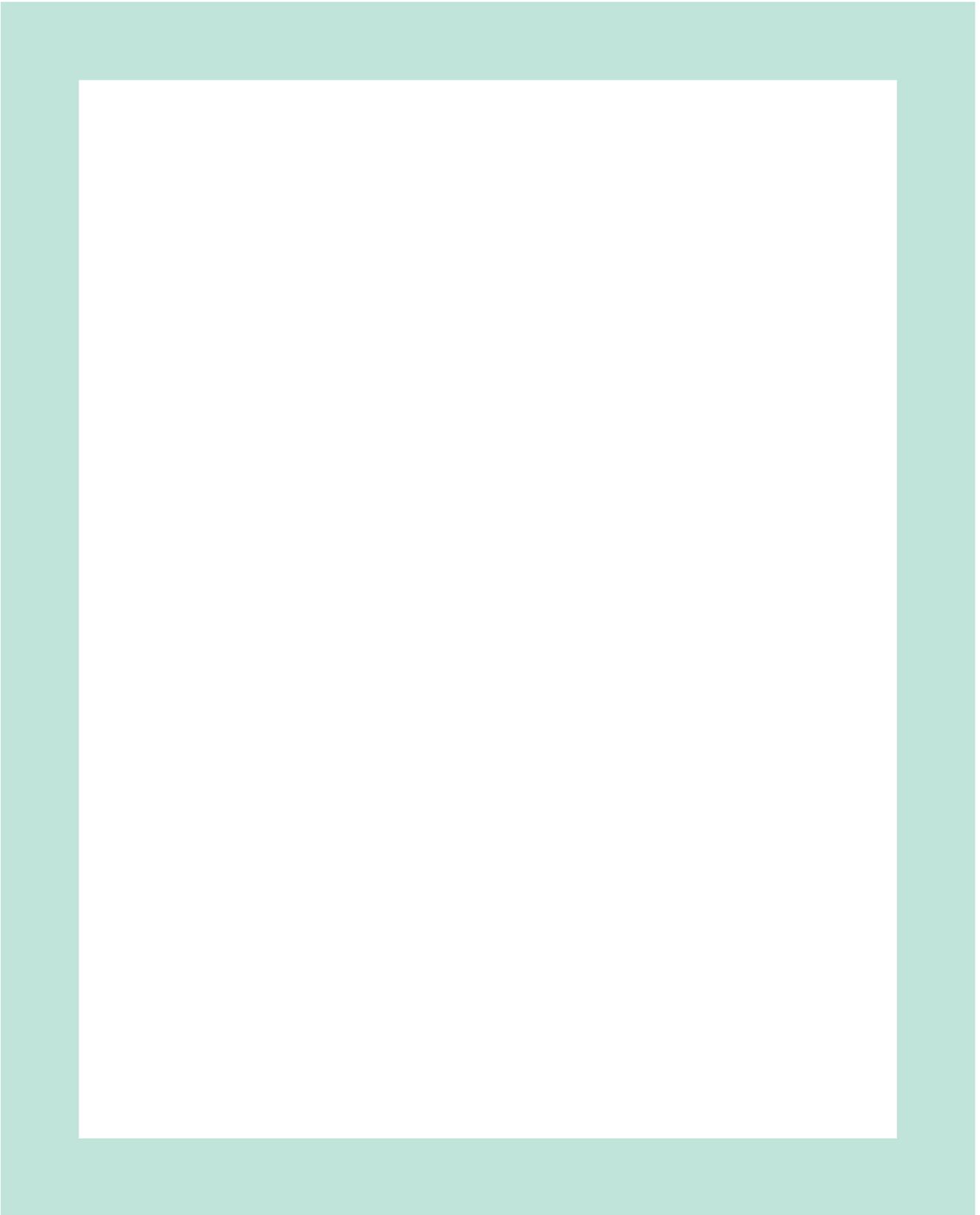
Finally, I extend our thanks to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, and to the Secretary General and staff of his Department for their unstinting support and interest in our work.



P.J. Fitzpatrick

Chief Executive Officer





Chapter 1

Structure and Governance

Chapter 1

Structure and Governance

Mandates of the Courts Service

- ▣ *Manage the courts*
- ▣ *Support the judiciary*
- ▣ *Provide information on the courts system for the public*
- ▣ *Manage and maintain court buildings*
- ▣ *Provide facilities for users of the courts*

The Board consists of a Chairperson and 16 members. Its functions are:

- ▣ to consider and determine policy in relation to the Service and
- ▣ to oversee the implementation of policy by the Chief Executive Officer.

The Board of the Courts Service



The Hon. Mr. Justice **John L. Murray**,
Chairperson,
Chief Justice of Ireland



The Hon. Mr. Justice **Richard Johnson**,
President of the High Court



The Hon. Mrs. Justice **Susan Denham**
Elected by the judges of the Supreme Court



The Hon. Mr. Justice **Iarfhlaith O'Neill**
Elected by the judges of the High Court



The Hon. Mr. Justice **John Quirke**
Nominated by the Chief Justice in respect of his experience or expertise in a specific area of court business



The Hon. Mr. Justice **Matthew Deery**
President of the Circuit Court



His Honour Judge **Patrick Moran**
Elected by the judges of the Circuit Court



Her Honour Judge **Miriam Malone**
President of the District Court



Judge **Flann Brennan**
Elected by the judges, other than the President, of the District Court



Mr. **P.J. Fitzpatrick**,
Chief Executive Officer



Mr. **Turlough O'Donnell**,
S.C.
Nominated by the Chairman of the Bar Council of Ireland



Mr. **Owen Binchy**,
Solicitor
Nominated by the President of the Law Society of Ireland



Mr. **Kevin Fidgeon**
Elected by the staff of the Service



Mr. **James Martin**
An officer of the Minister nominated by the Minister



Ms. **Olive Braiden**
Nominated by the Minister to represent consumers of the services provided by the courts



Ms. **Esther Lynch**
Nominated by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions



Mr. **Liam Farrell**
Nominated by the Minister for relevant knowledge and experience in commerce, finance or administration

Committees of the Board

The Board may establish and authorise committees to advise in relation to performance of many of its functions. During 2006, the following Committees dealt with a range of issues:

Finance Committee

- ▣ The Hon. Mr. Justice John L. Murray, Chairperson
- ▣ The Hon. Mr. Justice Richard Johnson
- ▣ The Hon. Mr. Justice Iarfhlaith O'Neill
- ▣ The Hon. Mr. Justice Matthew Deery
- ▣ Her Honour Judge Miriam Malone
- ▣ Mr. James Martin
- ▣ Mr. P.J. Fitzpatrick

Audit Committee

- ▣ Mr. Tom O'Higgins, Chartered Accountant, *external member*, Chairperson
- ▣ The Hon. Mr. Justice Matthew Deery
- ▣ Judge Cormac Dunne, judge of the District Court

- ▣ Mr. Jim Farrell, former Director of the National Treasury Management Agency, *external member*

- ▣ Mr. James Martin

Building Committee

- ▣ The Hon. Mr. Justice John Quirke, Chairperson
- ▣ The Hon. Mr. Justice Iarfhlaith O'Neill
- ▣ His Honour Judge Michael White, judge of the Circuit Court
- ▣ Judge Catherine Murphy, judge of the District Court
- ▣ Mr. Patrick James McCarthy S.C., *nominee of the Bar Council of Ireland*
- ▣ Mr. Gerard Griffin, solicitor, *nominee of the Law Society of Ireland*
- ▣ Mr. Kevin Fidgeon
- ▣ Ms. Olive Braiden
- ▣ Mr. Michael Haugh, Office of Public Works,
- ▣ Mr. Brendan Ryan, Director of Corporate Services, *Courts Service*

Family Law Court Development Committee

- ▣ The Hon. Mrs. Justice Catherine McGuinness, President of the Law Reform Commission, Chairperson
- ▣ The Hon. Mr. Justice Liam McKechnie, judge of the High Court
- ▣ Her Honour Judge Mary Faherty, judge of the Circuit Court
- ▣ Judge Gerard Haughton, judge of the District Court
- ▣ Ms. Olive Braiden
- ▣ Ms. Catherine Forde B.L., *nominee of the Bar Council of Ireland*
- ▣ Mr. David Bergin, solicitor, *nominee of the Law Society of Ireland*
- ▣ Mr. Kevin Fidgeon
- ▣ Ms. Nuala McLoughlin, Chief Registrar and Director of Operations, Supreme & High Courts, *Courts Service*
- ▣ Mr. Diarmaid MacDiarmada, Director of Operations, Circuit & District Courts, *Courts Service*

Steering Committee to provide information on sentencing

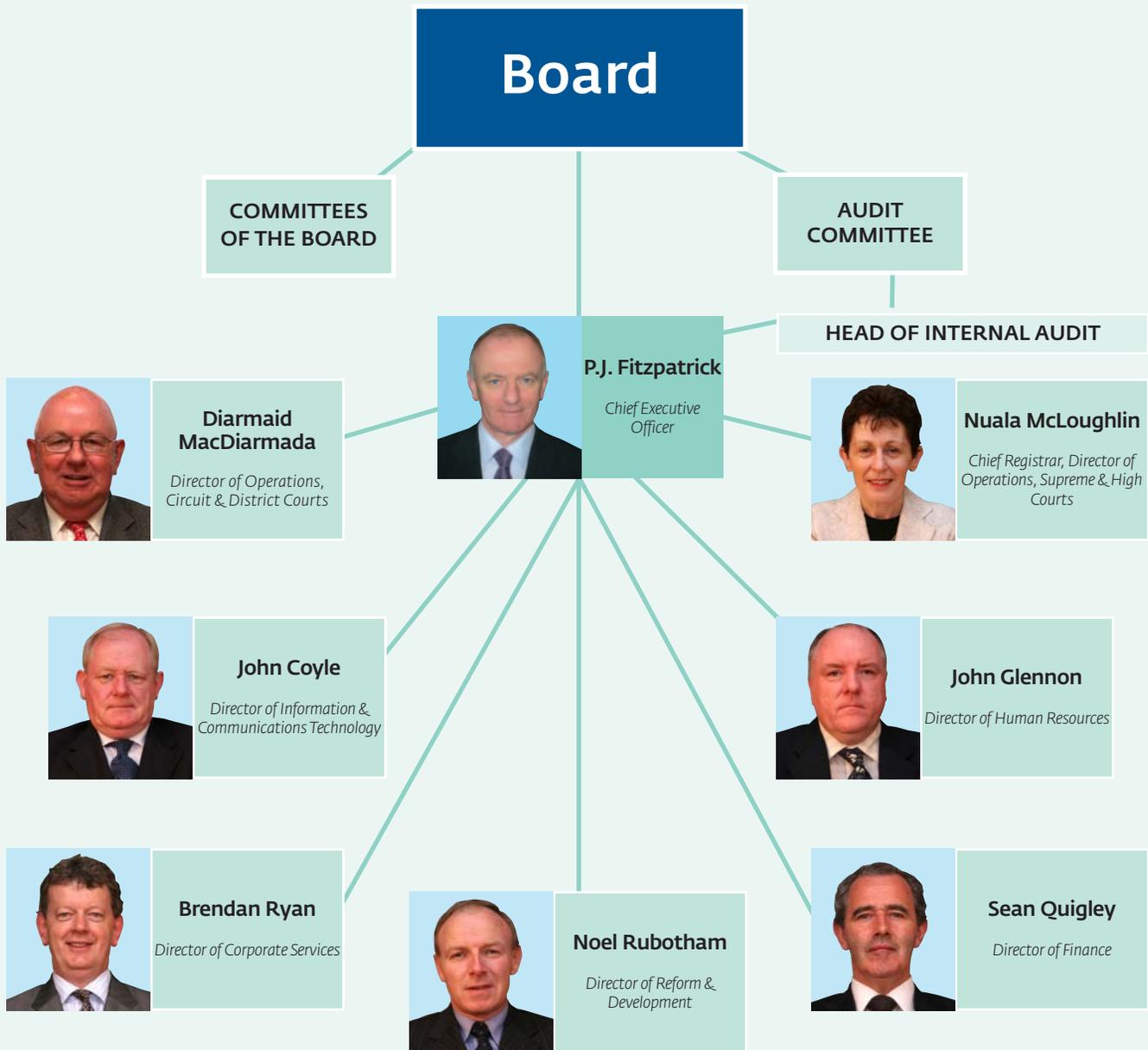
- ▣ The Hon. Mrs. Justice Susan Denham, Chairperson
- ▣ The Hon. Mr. Justice Kevin O' Higgins, judge of the High Court
- ▣ His Hon. Mr. Justice Esmond Smyth, judge of the Circuit Court
- ▣ Her Honour Judge Miriam Malone
- ▣ Professor Thomas O'Malley, Senior Lecturer in Law, National University of Ireland

Organisational Structure

Organisational / Management Structure

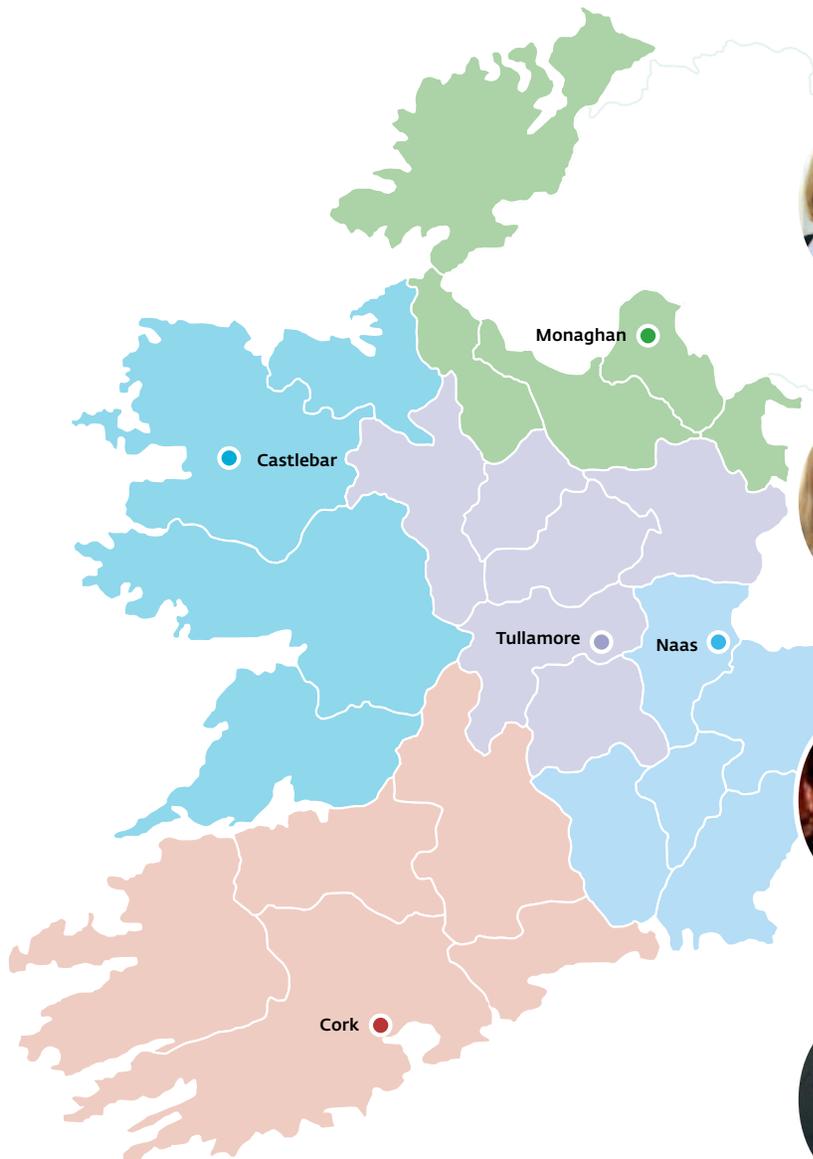
The Senior Management Team

The Senior Management Team comprises the Chief Executive Officer and seven Directors: Chief Registrar and Director of Operations for the Supreme & High Courts, Director of Operations for the Circuit & District Courts, Director of Finance, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Reform & Development, Director of Human Resources and Director of Information & Communications Technology.



Regional Offices

There are five regions with offices in Monaghan, Naas, Tullamore, Cork and Castlebar.



Gerry Nugent
Regional Manager

Eastern Region:
Office location - Naas, Co. Kildare

Counties covered - Kildare, Wicklow, Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford



Olive Caulfield
Regional Manager

Northern Region:
Office location - Monaghan

Counties covered - Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Donegal, Louth



Anne Price
Regional Manager

Midland Region:
Office location - Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Counties covered - Laois, Longford, Offaly, Roscommon, Westmeath, Meath



Eamonn Kiely
Regional Manager

Southern Region:
Office location - Cork City

Counties covered - Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Waterford, Tipperary

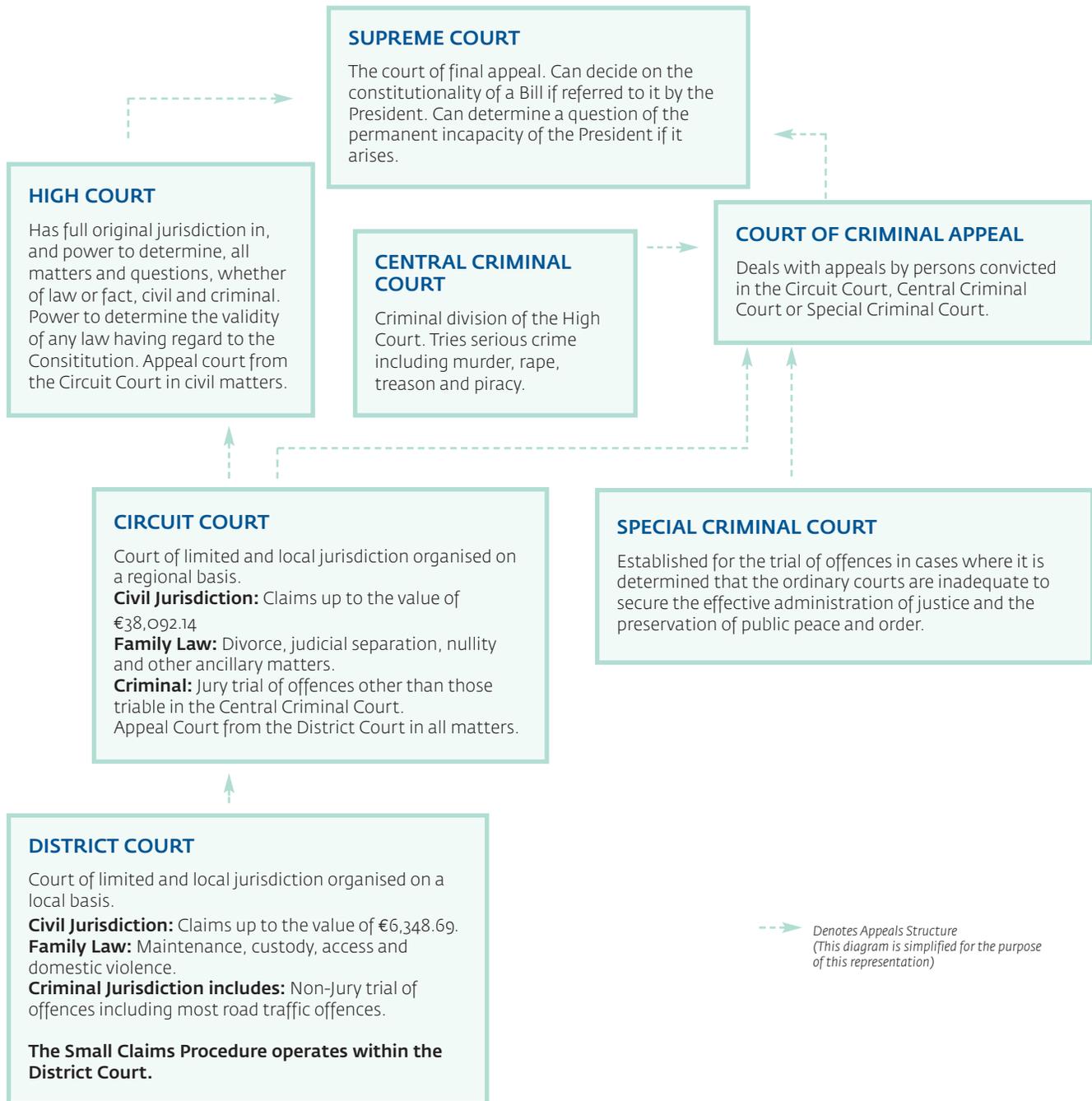


Brendan J. McDonald
Regional Manager

Western Region:
Office location - Castlebar, Co. Mayo

Counties covered - Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Clare

Structure of the courts



Governance

Work continued during the year on the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group on the Accountability of Secretaries General and Heads of Offices (*Mullarkey Report*).

The Service continued to build on the significant progress made to date in developing new systems, structures and management practices. This is important in the context of strategic and business planning, further development of key performance indicators, managing risk and demonstrating delivery of improved services and value for money.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee, which includes two external members, continued to meet at regular intervals during the year.

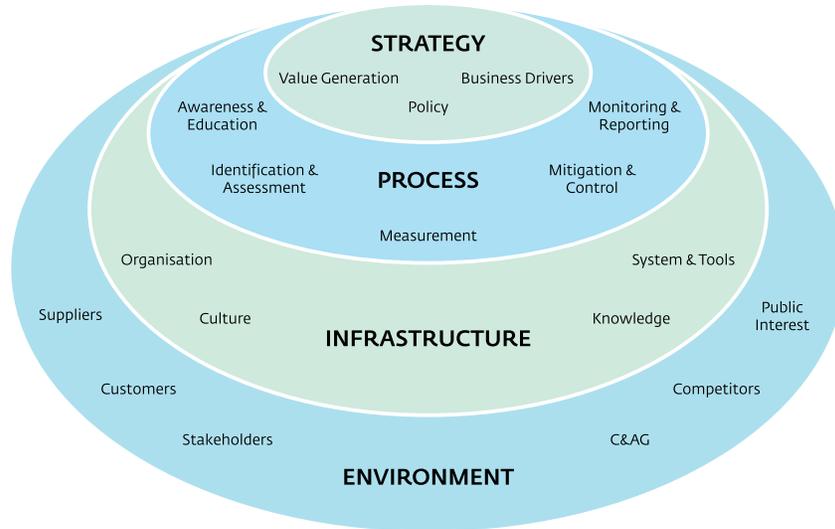


Internal Audit Unit

Audits are conducted across the full range of the activities of the Service including financial, operational, capital building, information technology and governance. They provide assurance that the risk management, control and governance processes are adequate.

The Internal Audit Unit is assisted by external auditors engaged by the Service to provide expertise in specialised areas including information technology and value for money. The Unit completed 46 audits during the year. This represents a significant increase in activity compared to previous years. All reports are submitted directly to the Audit Committee and to the Chief Executive/Accounting Officer.

The dimensions of the Risk Management Framework



Risk management

Good progress continued to be made in embedding the Risk Management Framework. A Risk Management Database was implemented to support the formal risk management process and provide a central repository for all risk information. The database was deployed to all Directorates and offices. Throughout 2006 an extensive data gathering exercise was undertaken with all offices and Directorates to compile comprehensive information to populate the database. The Risk Profile is now managed, reviewed, updated and reported to the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis using this central repository. The repository has enabled the Service analyse common risks, share knowledge on effective controls and mitigating actions, and provide transparency and accountability on the risks impacting the achievement of the goals set out in the Strategic Plan.

Expenditure reviews

Value for money and policy review initiatives which form part of the framework introduced to secure improved value for money continued during 2006. The focus of these reviews is to examine key expenditure areas in a systematic manner and provide a basis on which informed decisions can be made in assessing whether value for money has been achieved. An expenditure review on maintenance was completed during 2006. By year end a similar review of training and development expenditure was being externally evaluated with a completion date of early 2007. Plans were underway for a review of information and communications technology expenditure.

Procurement

Revised Procurement Policy and User Guidelines were finalised during the year.



Chapter 2

Managing the Courts - Performance Overview

Chapter 2

Managing the Courts - Performance Overview

In 2006 the courts continued to deal with a wide range and variety of civil law (including family law) and criminal law matters. Comprehensive statistics are contained in Chapter 6.

The Supreme Court

The number of appeals lodged in the Supreme Court in 2006 was 484, an increase of 9% compared to 2005. The total number of appeals disposed of in 2006 was 237. There were 57 appeals lodged by appellants in person or almost 12% of the total. The number of appeals from persons in custody continued to decline from 55 in 2004 to 16 in 2005 and just 6 in 2006.

There have been some notable changes in the type of appeals. *Habeas corpus* cases were down to 15 in 2006, compared with 21 in 2005. The number of appeals against refusal of *ex parte* and final judicial review orders was also lower, with 9 appeals against *ex parte* refusals of judicial review in 2006, compared with 22 in 2005. There were 28 appeals against final refusal of judicial review compared with 43 in 2005. Personal injuries appeals were down 24% from 72 in 2005 to 58 in 2006.

There was a reduction in the number of appeals against High Court orders on cases stated from the District Court from 10 in 2005 to 4 in 2006. The number of cases stated from the Circuit Court to the Supreme Court increased to 7 in 2006 compared with 1 in 2005.

Although the number of appeals against chancery final orders decreased from 23 in 2005 to 9 in 2006, the number of appeals in chancery interim orders increased by over 100% from 25 in 2005 to 55 in 2006. There were 10 High Court family law appeals in 2006, a significant increase on 2005 when 4 such appeals were lodged.

In 2006, there was a 100% increase in appeals in the judicial review asylum category, with 24 in 2006 compared to 12 in 2005. Appeals against judicial review interlocutory orders increased, from 2 in 2005 to 10 in 2006. Appeals against Planning Act (section 160) final orders increased from 1 appeal in 2005 to 4 in 2006.

Appeals in bail related matters more than doubled, from 8 in 2005 to 18 in 2006 and there were 22 appeals in European Arrest Warrant cases, an increase of over 50% compared with 2005.

The Supreme Court Office continues to authenticate notaries' and commissioners' signatures. This is required for many purposes, including company documents, marriage certificates and the adoption of children from abroad. The number of registrar's certificates of authentication issued in 2006 increased to 8,832, 10% higher than the 2005 figure of 8,005 and a 42% increase on the 2004 figure of 6,218.

Civil

The High Court

There were 15,433 new civil cases commenced in the High Court 2006, a 17.5% increase on the 13,126 issued in 2005. As in the Circuit Court much of the increase in new cases commenced was due to the 350% increase in the number of new personal injuries summonses issued. There were 2,673 new High Court personal injury cases commenced in 2006 compared with 746 in 2005.

Personal injury cases

There was a reduction in the number of cases set down for trial (4,906 in 2006 compared with 8,425 in 2005). The issue of proceedings for personal injury cases, now requires an authorisation from the Personal Injuries Assessment Board, indicating that one or both parties are unwilling to have damages assessed without an oral hearing.

In 2006, 3,765 High Court personal injury cases were concluded. 74% (2,781) were settled prior to hearing and almost 7% (259) settled at hearing (i.e. after trial commenced). Slightly more than 7% (273) went to full hearing or assessment of damages. 25% (69) of the total heard were dismissed.

The majority of the personal injury cases concluded in 2006 commenced within the previous 2-3 years, with 32% commenced in 2004 and 29% commenced in 2003.

Personal Injury Cases concluded by Year Commenced

Year	Concluded	Percentage
2006	90	2
2005	165	4
2004	1204	32
2003	1087	29
2002	554	15
2001	325	9
2000	127	3
Before 2000	213	6

Summary Summonses

There was a 6% increase in the number of new summonses issued for the recovery of debt (1,894 in 2006 compared to 1,782 in 2005), with a more marked increase in new Revenue Summonses. There were 901 new summonses issued by the Revenue Commissioners in 2006, a 29% increase on 2005, when 704 such summonses were issued.

European Arrest Warrants

This Act came into force on 1st January 2004. It provides a mechanism for persons from EU member states to be brought before the court in other member States to face charges or trial. It replaces extradition among EU member States in accordance with the Framework Decision and the national law of member states. Persons arrested under a European Arrest Warrant must be brought before the court immediately upon arrest and the hearing of proceedings must commence within 21 days of arrest. 171 European Arrest Warrant applications were made in 2006, almost three times as many as in 2005 when 62 such applications were made. 112 of the 171 European Arrest Warrant applications made in 2006 were concluded before the end of the year. 59 were carried forward to 2007. 27 of the 441 written judgments delivered by the High Court in 2006 dealt with such applications.

Judicial Review

There was a 9% increase in new judicial review applications in 2006 compared with 2005 (1,541 in 2006 and 1,419 in 2005). All of this increase is related to asylum cases, which are dealt with separately below.

Many judicial review applications relate to criminal trials. The High Court seeks to prioritise these cases. Final or concluding orders were made in 23 judicial review cases in which an order of prohibition was granted and in 19 judicial review cases in which an order of prohibition was refused.

Prohibition applications

Year case commenced	Final Order granted	Final Order refused
Prior to 2002	1	0
2002	1	1
2003	1	2
2004	6	8
2005	7	5
2006	7	3

Planning judicial review applications

Year case commenced	Final Order granted	Final Order refused
2002	0	0
2003	0	0
2004	1	4
2005	0	6
2006	1	4

Other final judicial review applications

Year case commenced	Final Order granted following hearing	Final Order refused following hearing	Strike out with costs
2002	1	3	3
2003	9	3	7
2004	29	9	13
2005	71	23	45
2006	75	13	45

Asylum and Immigration Act cases

In 2006 there were 909 new asylum related judicial review cases, an increase of 20% on the 2005 figure of 758.

Final or concluding orders were made in 403 cases. 8 of these had commenced in 2003, 43 in 2004, 208 in 2005 and 143 in 2006. 86% of cases were completed in 24 months or less (35% commenced and concluded in 2006, 51% commenced in 2005 and concluded in 2006). Of the remaining cases concluded in 2006, 11% commenced in 2004 and 2% in 2003. 47 of the 441 written judgments delivered by the High Court in 2006 dealt with these applications.

Commercial List – Breakdown of disposal times

- ▣ 50% of all cases are concluded in less than 14 weeks
- ▣ 75% of all cases are concluded in less than 25 weeks
- ▣ 90% of all cases are concluded in less than 45 weeks

Commercial List

There was a slight increase in the number of new cases entered into the Commercial List during 2006 and a significant increase in the number of cases disposed of compared with previous years. The largest single category of cases entering the List concerned disputes relating to business documents or contracts, and business disputes where the value of the claim or counterclaim was not less than €1,000,000 (146 cases out of the total of 262). The average waiting time is 9 weeks from entry to the List to allocation of a hearing date and 18 weeks from entry to the List to conclusion of the action. 20% were disposed of within 5 weeks. 60% of cases in the List settle prior to hearing, assisted by case management, directions hearings and pre-trial conferences.

Appeals from the Commercial List to the Supreme Court

Although the overall number of appeals from the List remains low, there was an increase in the number of appeals from 8 in 2005 to 14 appeals (involving 11 cases) in 2006.

Licensing

In the Circuit Court, the number of hotel licences granted increased by 18% from 83 to 98 in 2006. In the District Court, special exemption orders continue to form the majority of licensing business. The number of special exemptions granted decreased slightly, from 93,247 in 2005 to 91,157 in 2006. The number of temporary dance licences granted increased by 18% from 328 in 2005 to 388 in 2006.

The Circuit Court

The number of new civil cases commenced in 2006 increased significantly, from 22,692 to 26,503. The increase in civil bills was partly due to releases by the Personal Injury Assessment Board.

The number of notices of trial dealt with decreased by a third from 12,262 in 2005 to 8,168 in 2006. The number of motions dealt with decreased by 36% from 21,497 in 2005 to 13,666 in 2006. The number of civil trials dealt with in court and settled outside of court decreased by 34%. The number of motions dealt with by the Court and County Registrars decreased by 42% and 35% respectively.

The District Court

Civil business in the District Court increased slightly in 2006, from 59,748 applications in 2005 to 61,983, or an increase of almost 4%. One third related to summary judgments. The number of summary judgments dealt with decreased by 11% from 22,929 in 2005 to 20,391 in 2006. Other civil summonses increased by 25% in 2006, from 5,881 to 7,394. Committal orders for breach of court orders increased substantially, from 5,082 to 5,930, an increase of almost 17%.

Small Claims

Small claims applications continued to increase, from 2,705 in 2005 to 2,990 in 2006, an increase of 11%. The introduction of the 'Small Claims Online' (see page 54) in November 2006 facilitated the lodgment of claims over the internet. The number of applications finalised increased by 7%. Of the 2,877 applications dealt with, almost 50% were settled by the Small Claims Registrar. 730 cases or 25% were referred to the court, or an increase of 30% on the 2005 figure of 560. Of the claims referred to the court, decrees were granted in 52% or 377 cases.

Family

The High and Circuit Courts have concurrent jurisdiction in family law. Most applications for divorce and judicial separation are commenced in the Circuit Court.

The High Court

There was a 15% increase in the number of new family law cases in the High Court in 2006. The total number of new cases was 255 compared to 228 in 2005.

Family Law Reporting Service

The Service commenced a pilot project during the year to report on family law. This includes the publication of statistics, trends, and judgments, and reporting on proceedings in family law courts. The project will provide information to the judiciary, legal practitioners, the media and the general public on family law matters. By year end an analysis of all decisions and consent orders made in the Dublin Circuit Family Court for the month of October had been prepared as a 'snapshot'. This information will be combined with court reports and interviews with court staff in a report to be published early in 2007.

Divorce and Judicial Separation

Divorce applications increased by almost 25% (39 in 2006 compared to 30 in 2005). Appeals from the Circuit Court increased by 9% (89 in 2006 compared to 82 in 2005). The number of judicial separation applications remained similar (50 in 2006, 49 in 2005, 43 in 2004). As in the Circuit Court, nullity applications remain infrequent, with just one new case in 2006.

75% or 30 of the 39 divorce applications and 90% or 45 of the 50 judicial separation applications were initiated by female spouses. Financial orders (property adjustment and/or maintenance orders) were sought in 82% of all divorce cases and in 79% of all judicial separation cases.

Married*	Divorce	Judicial Separation
1960's	2	5
1970's	14	9
1980's	9	16
1990's	10	11
2000 or later		1

* where details given

Parties seeking a divorce are required to have lived apart for 4 of the preceding 5 years. The data for the cases in which this information was provided is as follows:

LENGTH OF TIME PARTIES LIVING APART	NUMBER OF CASES
Less than 5 years	16 (3 where husband was applicant and 13 where wife was applicant)
5 to 10 years	16 (5 where husband was applicant and 11 where wife was applicant)
Over 10 years	4 (in all cases wife was applicant)

There is no 'living apart' requirement for a judicial separation. The data for the cases in which this information was provided is as follows:

	Applicant: male spouse	Applicant: female spouse
Not living apart	-	6
Up to one year apart	1	13
2-5 years apart	1	18
5-10 years apart	-	-
10-20 years apart	-	1

During 2006, a total of 47 final orders were made in divorce cases, 27 final orders were made in judicial separation cases and 47 final orders in Circuit Court Appeals. The table below sets out the year in which these proceedings were commenced:

Year	Divorce	Judicial Separation	Circuit Appeals
1999	1	-	-
2000	1	2	-
2001	-	2	-
2002	4	1	2
2003	9	1	2
2004	8	6	4
2005	9	14	22
2006	15	3	17
Total	47	27	47

District Court proceedings in respect of matters including custody, access and maintenance had been initiated or were pending in 87 of the 89 divorce and judicial separation cases commenced in the High Court in 2006.

In 10 of the divorce applications filed in 2006 the parties had previously obtained a judicial separation. A foreign decree had been obtained in 2 cases and a separation agreement was in place in 3 cases.

All of the parties in High Court divorce and judicial separation applications in 2006 were legally represented.

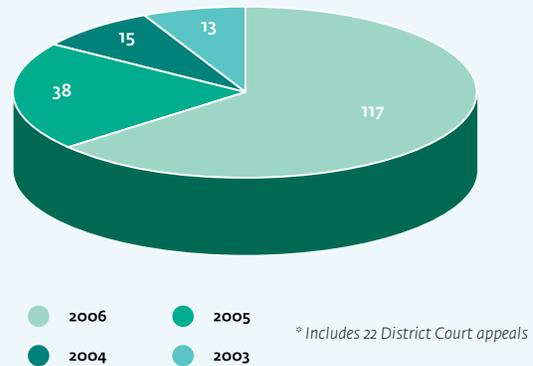
Dublin Circuit Family Court – October 2006

A total of 161 cases were decided in Dublin in the month of October 2006, with 99 of those cases initiated earlier in the year. Of those 99 cases, 81 were divorce applications where both parties consented to the terms of the divorce. In 65 of these the only order made was a blocking order, extinguishing the inheritance rights of both parties against the estate of the other. In a further six cases a blocking order was accompanied by a pension adjustment order. Nine of the applications for judicial separation initiated in 2006 ended in consents, with the terms filed as schedules or rules of court. Of the remaining 2006 cases, three (two divorce and one judicial separation) went to full hearing and judgment, and six concerned other matters such as guardianship of children, declarations of parentage and protection or safety orders.

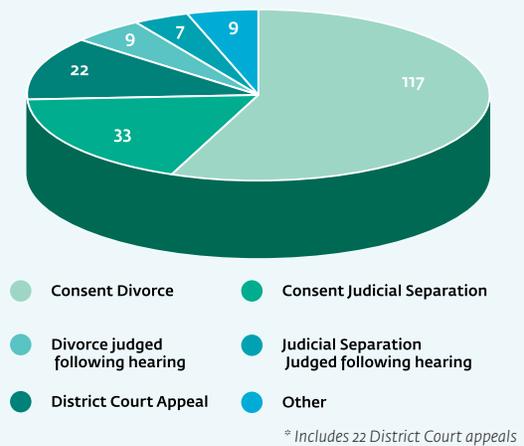
Of the cases that started in 2005, there were 14 divorces granted on consent and 11 judicial separations. Two divorces and four judicial separations went to a full hearing ending in a decision by the court. Of the 2004 cases, two were divorces on consent, eight were judicial separations on consent, and three divorces and two judicial separations went to trial. Of the 2003 cases, six divorce cases were settled, five judicial separation cases were also settled, and two divorces went a full hearing.

Therefore, of the 161 cases concluded in October 2006, 103 were divorces where the terms were agreed between the parties, and 33 were judicial separations where the terms were agreed. Sixteen cases went to a full hearing and a court decision. Nine of the total concerned other matters like guardianship, declarations of parentage or protection.

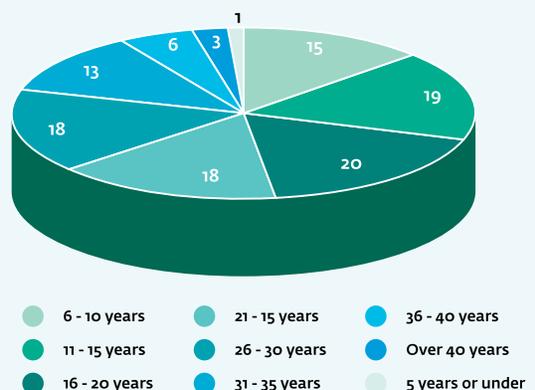
Cases concluded October 2006
Year of application *



Cases concluded October 2006
Types of cases *



Cases concluded October 2006
Length of marriage ending in Divorce



Note: Date of marriage not noted on some case files

Adoption Act

The High Court has exclusive jurisdiction in Adoption Act cases. There was a significant increase in the number of cases (24 new cases in 2006 compared with 8 in 2005 and 9 in 2004).

There was a 50% increase in Hague/Luxembourg (Child Abduction) cases with 46 new cases in 2006 compared with 31 in 2005 and 27 in 2004. These are subject to strict time limits and are therefore prioritised. The *Brussels II bis Regulation*, which applies to child abductions between EU Member States, contains new provisions in relation to parental responsibility. It is intended to enhance the role of the State of habitual residence in abduction cases to speed up decision making and to simplify the procedure for recognition and enforcement.

43 of the cases which commenced in 2006 concerned 63 children of whom 22 were aged under 5 years, 26 aged 5 – 10 years, and 15 aged 10 years and over. Of the 46 cases, final orders were made for the return of the children in 25 cases. Final orders directing that the children remain in this jurisdiction were made in 15 cases. Interim orders were made in the remaining 6 cases. The country of habitual residence in 35% of cases was the United Kingdom and in 15% of cases was the United States of America. Applications were also made in respect of children from Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Hungary, Germany, France, Spain, Finland, Northern Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Twelve of the 441 written judgments delivered by the High Court in 2006 dealt with such applications.

The Circuit Court

Divorce and Judicial Separation

There was a slight decrease in the number of new divorce applications, from 4,096 in 2005 to 3,986 in 2006. 3,420 divorces were granted, up from 3,391 in 2005. Applications for judicial separations continued to increase, up by 7.9% from 1,658 in 2005 to 1,789 in 2006. The number of judicial separations increased from 950 in 2005 to 1,072 in 2006, an increase of almost 13%.

Nullity

Applications for nullity constituted a very small percentage of the family law applications – 60 (less than 1%). However this represented an increase of 20% in the number of such applications in 2005 (50 applications). There was a decrease of over 30% in the number granted, 25 as opposed to 37 in 2005.

Section 33

Section 33 applications seek the permission of the court to dispense with the requirement to give 3 months notice of intention to marry and/or to allow persons under 18 years to marry. Applications for Section 33 relief decreased slightly from 923 in 2005 to 903 in 2006. Orders granted under Section 33 also decreased by almost 4% from 870 in 2005 to 836 in 2006. The number of orders refused shows the greatest change, up from 18 in 2005 to 29 in 2006, an increase of 61%.

The District Court

Domestic Violence

Applications under the Domestic Violence Act, 1996 account for more than 50% of the family law work in the District Court. In 2006, applications for barring orders decreased by almost 2%, from 3,183 in 2005 to 3,132. Applications for safety orders increased by 6% from 2,866 in 2005 to 3,050 while applications for protection orders increased by 10% from 2,850 in 2005 to 3,137. The number of orders granted in domestic violence cases increased in 2006 – barring orders from 1,265 in 2005 to 1,357, safety orders from 1,037 in 2005 to 1,221 and protection orders from 2,622 in 2005 to 2,845. The most significant increase was in safety orders granted which increased by over 17% while barring and protection orders granted increased by 7% and 8% respectively.

Applications for interim barring orders decreased by more than 3% in 2006 to 605 from 622 in 2005. 544 orders were granted as compared to 550 in 2005.

Applications against spouses accounted for more than 50% of all applications made to the District Court under the Domestic Violence Act, 1996. There were a total of 9,924 applications of which 5,565 were against spouses. Applications against common law or cohabiting partners accounted for 2,916 or almost 33% of all applications. The number of safety orders made against cohabiting partners increased by over 39% from 291 in 2005 to 404, the number granted to parents against adult children increased by 12% from 91 in 2005 to 102 while the number granted against spouses increased from 633 in 2005 to 693, an increase of over 9%.

Barring orders granted to spouses remained virtually unchanged in 2006. Barring orders granted to partners and parents increased by 17% and 16% respectively.

Custody and Access

Applications for custody and access increased by 8%, from 829 in 2005 to 900 in 2006. There was a similar increase in applications for access only. Applications for custody only increased from 749 in 2005 to 846, an increase of almost 13%. There was a small increase in the number of applications for maintenance from unmarried applicants with a corresponding decrease in the number from married applicants.

Maintenance

District Court offices continued to process a large number of maintenance payments. In 2006, a total of 283,292 maintenance payments were processed, an increase of 13% on 2005.

Childcare

The District Court deals with an increasing number of applications for supervision orders and care orders for children at risk. The number of supervision orders granted increased by almost 40%, from 372 in 2005 to 520. Care orders also increased, from 975 in 2005 to 1,125, an increase of just over 15%.

Criminal

The Court of Criminal Appeal

In 2006, the Court of Criminal Appeal received 244 new cases and disposed of 329 cases, disposing of more than it took in for the fourth consecutive year. While there was a 5% reduction in the number of new appeals lodged, there was a 13% increase in the number of appeals concluded due to the increased number of sitting dates.

As a result of increased sitting dates and the monitoring/listing system in place, by the end of 2006 only 19 of the appeals carried forward had been lodged prior to 2005 and only 35 prior to 2006.

At the beginning of 2006, the court had carried forward 273 cases from 2005, but due to its disposal rate only 194, or 71% of the 2005 total, were carried forward at the end of 2006. Average waiting times were consistent with 2005 levels (7-9 months for conviction cases and 6-8 months for sentence appeals).

The Central Criminal Court

There were 33 new murder cases commenced in 2006, a reduction of 6% on 2005 figure of 35. There were 58 new rape and sexual assault cases, an increase of 32% compared to 44 in 2005. While this was the second consecutive year showing an increase in the number of new rape cases, the number is 45% of the numbers in 1998/1999. For the sixth year in a row the number of cases completed

exceeded the number of new cases returned for trial.

The average time for a murder trial in 2006 was 8.8 days. One trial lasted 27 days, one lasted 24 days and one lasted 19 days. 10 cases lasted 5 days or less. The average time for a rape trial was 5.3 days. One trial lasted 11 days and one lasted 10 days. 8 cases lasted 5 days or less.

In 80% of murder cases (42 out of 52) and in 40% of rape trials (23 out of 56) a plea of not guilty was entered leading to a full hearing before a judge and jury. A plea of guilty was entered in three murder cases prior to trial. After commencement of the trial a guilty plea was entered in three murder cases and one rape case. A *nolle prosequi* was entered in one murder case and in seven rape cases. One murder case was transferred to Northern Ireland under the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act, 1976. Two murder cases and one rape case were quashed.

Nine murder trials ended in acquittals and 39 in convictions. There were 17 murder convictions, 18 manslaughter convictions and four convictions for lesser offences. Fifteen of the 23 rape trials before a judge and jury resulted in a conviction and eight in an acquittal.

The mandatory life sentence was imposed in the 17 murder convictions.

The Circuit Court

Criminal business disposed of by the Circuit Court increased significantly in 2006. The number of defendants whose cases were disposed of increased by 5% from 2,437 in 2005 to 2,566 in 2006. A total of 2,039 (79%) pleaded guilty compared to 1,844 (almost 85%) in 2005.

A total of 153 defendants were convicted by juries representing almost 6% of the number disposed of. This is marginally lower than last year. The number acquitted increased from 190 in 2005 (7%) to 201 (8%) in 2006.

Forty six per cent of all defendants (1,214) were dealt with in Dublin. Of these 85% pleaded guilty and just over 5% were convicted by a jury. Almost 6% were acquitted by a jury.

Almost 74% of defendants outside Dublin pleaded guilty while 6% were convicted by a jury. Almost 10% were acquitted.

The District Court

Having decreased in 2004 and 2005, the criminal cases in the District Court increased by 10% in 2006, back up to just above the 2003 level. The number of summary cases dealt with in the District Court increased by over 9% from 302,134 to 329,775. The number of indictable cases dealt with summarily by the District Court increased from 41,374 in 2005 to 48,272 in 2006, an increase of almost 17%.

The most significant increase was in the drug related offences which increased by more than 26%, from 7,003 in 2005 to 8,842 in 2006. Larceny cases increased by over 16%, from 20,969 in 2005 to 24,463. The introduction of random breath testing and the automatic prosecution of fixed penalty charge defaulters contributed to a 12% increase in the number of road traffic cases disposed of, up from 198,412 in 2005 to 222,376 in 2006. Public order and assault offences increased by just over 4% in 2006, from 37,119 to 38,700.

The Children Court

The number of children whose cases were disposed of in the Children Court decreased from 2,434 in 2005 to 2,386 in 2006. There was a decrease of 9% in the number of children detained from 441 in 2005 to 399 in 2006 and the number of children sent forward for trial to a higher court also decreased from 131 to 121, a decrease of almost 8%. Community service orders increased by 50% from 40 in 2005 to 60 in 2006.

Chapter 3

Supporting the Judiciary

Chapter 3

Supporting the Judiciary

Supporting the judiciary is a statutory mandate of the Service. The goals set out in the Strategic Plan include many initiatives to support the judiciary and enhance day to day working arrangements between the judiciary and staff. The goals also contain many initiatives to assist the judiciary manage increasing workloads. Managers meet regularly with the judiciary to discuss court business and to devise methods of improving the management of court lists.

Support for the work of the courts

Case Management

The Service continued to assist the judiciary provide for more efficient and well managed litigation using case management principles. A feature of litigation in the High Court in 2006 was the increase in the number of cases (for example, judicial review) where the originating document commencing the litigation was of the type that is made immediately returnable before a judge. This means that the case comes under the control and management of the court from initiation until hearing.

Similarly in other forms of litigation the originating document commencing the litigation is often immediately returnable before the court and the case or application remains under the control and management of the court until finally determined. Examples include applications for European Arrest Warrants, applications under the Proceeds of Crime Acts, applications under the Companies Acts, applications under the Hague Convention on Child Abduction and certain applications under the

Competition Acts. In addition in lists such as the Commercial and the Competition Lists there is an application in the relevant list at an early stage and thereafter the proceedings remain under the control and management of the court for pre-trial directions and case management.

The Judiciary at 31st December 2006

	Number allowed by legislation	Numbers serving
Supreme Court	8	8
High Court	34	33
Circuit Court	34	33
District Court	55	55
Total	131	129

Specialised Lists

High Court Commercial List

The Commercial List in the High Court continued to demonstrate how specialised lists can improve the efficiency and speed of the court process. Case Management has resulted in a significant narrowing of the issues in dispute with the result that many cases settle in part or in full during the case management process.

The Commercial List's case management regime and its record of early disposal of cases makes it particularly suitable for planning and infrastructure related judicial review applications. In 2004, only 3 judicial review cases came into the List. This increased to 8 in 2005, and to 28 in 2006, a 154% increase on the previous total and a 250% increase on the 2004 figure.

There is also a small but growing trend whereby parties to cases which are not in the Commercial List consent to the List's case management regime being applied to their cases. In 2006, this occurred in approximately 50 chancery cases.

The Commercial List won a *Public Service Excellence Award* in 2006. The award was presented by An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, T.D., at a ceremony in the State Apartments in Dublin Castle in March 2006. Organised every two years, the awards acknowledge public service projects and initiatives throughout Ireland across the public sector that improve the quality of service or administration. The 2006 awards involved some 153 nominated projects. An independent selection committee chose 20 winners.

“Participants acknowledge that their lives are changed by their involvement in the Drug Treatment Court programme – even those who do not complete it”

*Judge Bridget Reilly,
Judge in charge of the Drug Treatment Court.*

The involvement of court staff in the call over of cases contributed to a more efficient system of processing cases. An example was in Carlow District Court where the Chief Clerk called over cases prior to the commencement of the court sitting. This assisted in the removal of cases not proceeding and afforded the judge additional time to deal with cases requiring a hearing.

Drug Treatment Court

The Drug Treatment Court was established on a permanent basis during the year. By year end the Service was involved in consultations with the Health Service Executive, the Probation Service, An Garda Síochána and the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee to expand its catchment area.

Community Courts

In 2006 the Service continued to support the work of the National Crime Council in examining the suitability of community courts in Ireland. A community court is designed so that the criminal courts forge closer links with the community and develop a collaborative problem-solving approach to quality-of-life offences. These include petty crime which impacts severely on local communities including residents and businesses. A sub-committee of the Council, chaired by a judge of the District Court and including a member of staff of the Service, examined the operation of a number of such courts in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Staff in the District Court offices in Drogheda, Limerick and Trim introduced an initiative whereby times for the hearing of court lists are staggered. This avoids congestion and unnecessary waiting time for court users.

Improving processes

Many District Court offices improved the system of recording court orders during the year. Examples included the Dublin Metropolitan District Court where a new system was introduced whereby court orders are resulted by support staff and checked in court on the day by the registrar. This reduced the waiting time for orders from 8 weeks to 3 days. Similar arrangements were introduced by offices in Cork, Carrick-on-Shannon, Athlone, Donegal, Portlaoise, Longford, Limerick, Ennis, Listowel and Ballinasloe.

The President of the District Court introduced procedures to streamline the hearing of drink driving cases in the Dublin Metropolitan District Court. All such cases were brought before one court. Cases were given a date 'for mention' initially. On that date the accused can plead guilty or not guilty. If a defendant pleads guilty, the case is disposed of immediately. Hearing dates were allocated to defendants who plead not guilty.

An initiative to confirm the production of insurance certificates, tax documents and driving licenses in advance of sittings of Dundalk Circuit Court led to a reduction in the time required to deal with appeals from the District Court. Trim Circuit Court commenced using the civil case management system in the courtroom to process court decisions.

Call over lists

Following discussions with the presiding judges, District Court Clerks and court users in a number of districts, call over systems were introduced for lists involving summonses. The District Court Clerk calls through all of the cases on the summons list. As defendants or their legal representatives respond, cases are categorised as applications for adjournments, pleas of 'guilty' and pleas of 'not guilty'. When the judge sits, the applications for adjournment are dealt with first, then the pleas of 'guilty' and finally, the contested cases.

New procedures were introduced during the year to ensure that cases in the High Court Personal Injuries list for hearing in provincial locations progressed more rapidly. Staff worked with the President of the High Court to remove cases from the list where parties failed to appear at a special call over list.

“Listing cases at various times of the day reduces the number of persons in court and the amount of time people have to wait for their case to be reached in the list”.

*Diarmaid MacDiarmada,
Director of Operations, Circuit and District Courts.*

Adjournments and trial waiting times

The Service continued to assist the judiciary reduce adjournments and trial waiting times where delays existed in 2006:

Central Criminal Court

In the Central Criminal Court the strict application of a policy on adjournments together with ongoing case management and careful scheduling of cases all contributed to a reduction in waiting times in 2006. It also facilitated the optimum use of judicial and other resources allocated to the court.

The continued increase in sittings of the High Court outside Dublin facilitated many court users. During the year the Central Criminal Court sat at six provincial venues for a total of 52 days. Ten persons had their cases dealt with locally.

“The major court building construction and refurbishment programme completed over the last seven years means that in the vast majority of counties there is a sufficient number of modern courtrooms and associated facilities to accommodate increased sittings of the courts”.

CEO, PJ Fitzpatrick

Cork Courthouse

**Central Criminal Court
– Sittings outside Four Courts**

Venue	Days
Ennis	13
Waterford	6
Tralee	7
Cork	12
Limerick	7
Cloverhill	7
Total	52

High Court

Additional sittings of the High Court were held outside Dublin in 2006 to hear judicial review, non-jury and additional circuit appeal cases in venues including Cork, Dundalk, Clonmel, Naas, Limerick and Roscommon. The President of the High Court plans to extend such arrangements to include chancery and other cases in 2007.

In the Dublin Metropolitan District, special sittings were held in August and September to deal specifically with drink driving cases. Over 650 cases were listed of which over 400 were disposed of. Bench warrants issued in 30 cases and the remaining cases were adjourned.

Circuit Criminal Court

The priority in the Circuit Court in 2006 was to reduce backlogs in criminal cases, particularly by disposing of some very long trials around the country which had been waiting to be dealt with for some time. Additional judicial resources were assigned by the President of the Circuit Court for this purpose to Tullamore, Mullingar, Portlaoise, Kilkenny, Trim, Limerick, Naas, Wicklow, Letterkenny, Carrick-on-Shannon, Monaghan, Sligo, Nenagh, Waterford and Tralee. An additional criminal court was also provided in Dublin bringing the total number of Circuit Criminal Courts in Dublin to six. As a result, backlogs in criminal cases decreased.

District Court

In recent years, the number of available scheduled District Court sittings has been insufficient to manage the number and complexity of cases coming before the District Court. This necessitated the convening of special sittings. The total number of special sittings in the District Court in 2006 was 1,091. The Dublin Metropolitan District Court had 188 special sittings. Examples in other parts of the country include Bray, Carlow, Kilkenny and Naas where over 150 extra sittings were arranged and Donegal where over 90 extra sittings were arranged. There were special sittings in other locations including Cavan and Monaghan.

District Court Family Law

Work continued during the year to develop arrangements for dedicated family law sittings for all District Court Districts. By year end such lists were available in the following areas:

DISTRICT	VENUE	REGION	NUMBER OF DEDICATED FAMILY LAW SITTINGS
1	Donegal	Northern	One sitting each month
1	Letterkenny	Northern	One sitting each month
2	Sligo	Western	One sitting each month
3	Ballina	Western	One sitting each month
3	Castlebar	Western	One sitting each second month alternating with Westport
5	Cavan	Northern	One sitting each month
5	Monaghan	Northern	One sitting each month
6	Drogheda	Northern	One sitting each month
6	Dundalk	Northern	One sitting each month
7	Galway	Western	Two sittings each month except for September - one sitting
8	Athlone	Midlands	Afternoon of each court
8	Ballinasloe	Western	Afternoon of each court
8	Loughrea	Western	Afternoon of each court
8	Nenagh	Southern	Afternoon of each court
9	Mullingar	Midlands	One sitting each month
9	Tullamore	Midlands	One sitting each month
10	Trim	Midlands	Each Friday afternoon
12	Ennis	Western	One sitting each month
13	Listowel	Southern	One sitting each month
14	Limerick	Southern	One sitting each week
14	Thurles	Southern	One sitting each month
15	Carlow	Eastern	One sitting each month
15	Portlaoise	Midlands	One sitting each month
16	Bray	Eastern	One sitting each month
16	Naas	Eastern	One sitting each month
17	Killarney	Southern	One sitting every second month
17	Tralee	Southern	One sitting every second month
19	Cork	Southern	Two sittings each week
20	Fermoy	Southern	One sitting each month
20	Mallow	Southern	One sitting each month
21	Clonmel	Southern	One sitting each month
22	Kilkenny	Eastern	One sitting each month
22	Waterford	Southern	One sitting each month
23	Wexford	Eastern	One sitting each month
	Dublin	Dublin Metropolitan District	Daily

All urgent and uncontested family law applications are dealt with in the location where they arise

The Children Court

Arrangements continued in 2006 for the Children Court in Dublin to sit in local areas. With effect from September 2006 all new juvenile cases for the Tallaght area are heard in the courthouse in Tallaght. This will be extended to other courts in local areas in Dublin, including Swords and Dun Laoghaire, during 2007. By year end separate children sittings were available in Carlow, Galway, Castlebar, Westport, Ballina, Waterford and Cork.

Youth Justice Services

The Service continued to explore ways of providing additional services for young people and in particular improved arrangements for the Children Court, courts dealing with childcare issues and the involuntary detention of children. This included consultations with the new Youth Justice Office.

Reorganising District Court Districts and areas

Work on a major reorganisation of District Court Districts continued in 2006. This is to create more equitable workloads in Districts many of which have seen very significant demographic changes since the Districts were last revised.

Financial and Administrative Support

The functions of the Service also include the provision of financial and administrative support for the Judicial Studies Institute and the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board, both of which are independent of the Service.

Library and research facilities

The Judges' Library continued to serve judges of all courts and staff in many offices of the Courts Service during the year. Library resources include a comprehensive collection in hardcopy of reference works, textbooks, periodicals, law reports and unreported judgments, legislation, indexes and digests, Oireachtas Debates and official publications. Where materials were required that were not held within the collection, they were obtained on inter-library loan or document supply services. In addition, the library also subscribes to a range of quality online electronic resources, which was extended during the year. An information service for judges and staff is provided on the premises and by email, telephone, fax or post. As in previous years, readers often availed of library services during evening hours. Library staff provided training in online searching and legal information skills in general, and information on library services for readers was updated during the year. The library also continued to provide publications for use within offices and judges' chambers. Continuing professional development and training for staff of the library ensured that staff kept abreast of trends and best practices.

“The recording of court proceedings in this way will provide a much more efficient, less costly and more accurate system for producing transcripts. It will provide a permanent record of all court proceedings. It will reduce the time required for judges, legal practitioners and others to read and review court transcripts”

CEO, PJ Fitzpatrick

Information and Communications Technology

Providing improved facilities

Judges of the Supreme Court were provided with wireless handheld devices during the year. These devices have several inbuilt functions including wireless email, wireless web browsing, calendar, address book and calculator. Similar devices will be made available to judges in the other court jurisdictions in 2007. The next phase of the information technology programme for the

judiciary relates to the modernisation of the remote access system facilitating broadband, WI-FI and mobile connectivity to the network of the Service. Testing of the system using the new laptops will be undertaken early in 2007.

Digital Dictation System

A pilot digital dictation system was evaluated during 2006 following which it was decided to procure a full system for all judges to be rolled out on a phased basis.

Digital Audio Recording System

Tenders for a digital audio recording system were sought in 2006. At year end arrangements were being made with the Department of Finance for a formal peer review for this system in accordance with the recent Government decision in relation to the management of large scale information technology projects.

Progress was made in 2006 to identify an appropriate digital audio recording system for outlying or smaller venues not linked to the network of the Service. At year end a system was being tested in Athlone District Court with additional tests planned for Nenagh and Galway District Courts in early 2007.

Electronic display of evidence

Research work was completed in relation to the appropriate software and tools that would be suitable for the electronic presentation of documents in the Supreme Court. The electronic display of evidence within the Supreme Court is part of a larger programme of work to be implemented on an incremental basis. Work commenced in 2006 on the development of the technical approach to be adopted for this programme. At year end, the solution for the electronic presentation of documents within the Supreme Court was being designed and developed with priority in the first instance being given to electronic transcripts.

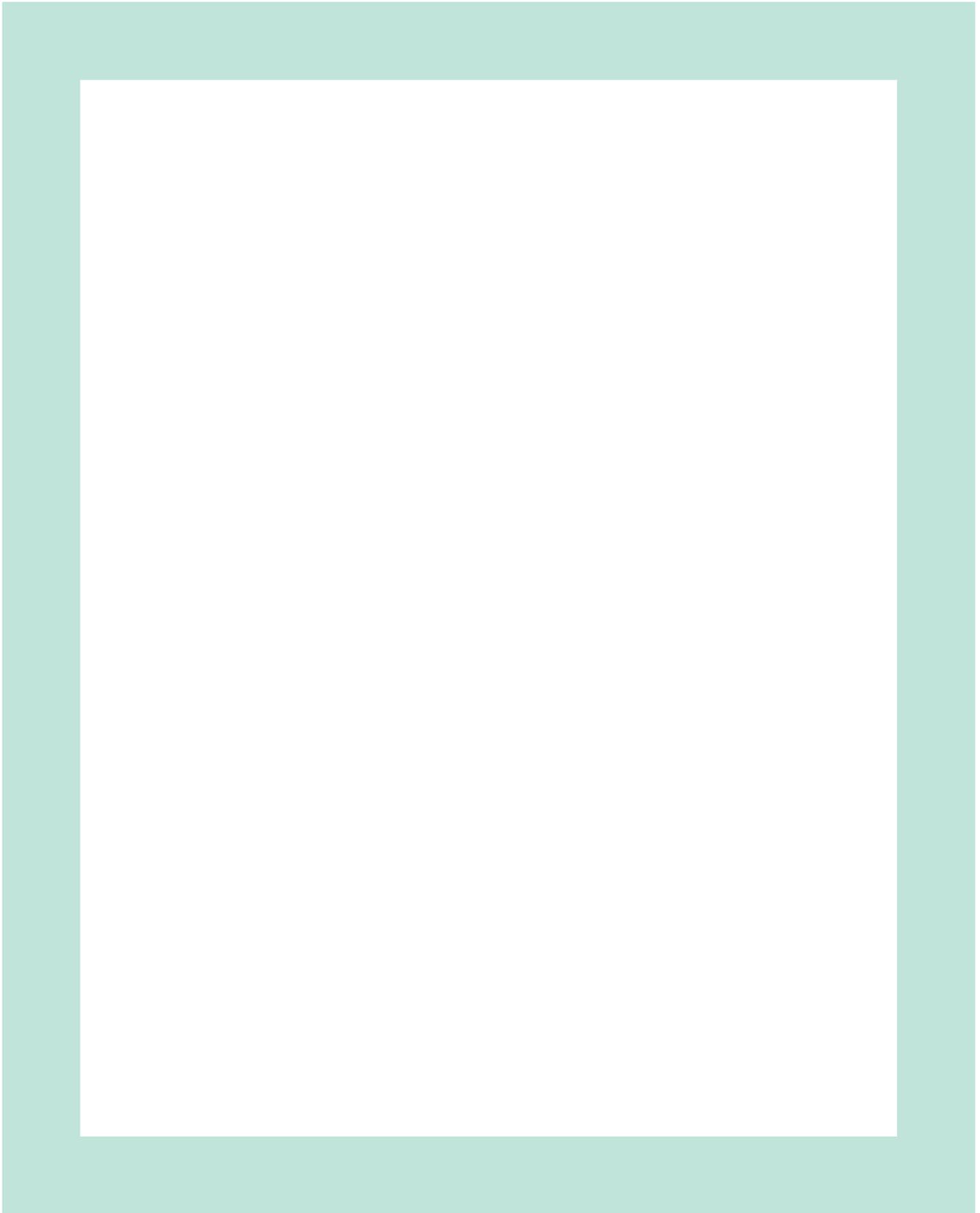
Nenagh Courthouse

Accommodation

Improved accommodation and other facilities continue to be provided for judges as part of the construction and refurbishment programme detailed in Chapter 4.

Foreign visits

Visits by delegations from many foreign jurisdictions were facilitated in 2006. They included Australia, United States of America, France, Slovakia, India, Norway, Korea, China, Scotland and Macedonia. Assistance was also provided for the Working Group on Strengthening Mutual Confidence of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary in November.



Chapter 4
Modernising the Courts

Chapter 4

Modernising the Courts

The strategic objectives of the Service are in line with the Government’s modernisation programme. In 2006 the Service continued to deliver on the programme of measures contained in *Sustaining Progress*, the social partnership agreement 2003-2006. Many of the initiatives undertaken in the later months of 2006 underpin the Service’s programme under the terms of the social partnership agreement 2006-2015, *Towards 2016*.

The third Strategic Plan of the Service contains a series of goals for the years 2005-2008. These reflect the commitment to modernisation and include customer service, better regulation, new technology, eGovernment, improved buildings, information for the public and changes in existing structures and processes to ensure that services are provided in the most efficient and effective way.

Customer Service

Customer Charters



New Customer Charters were produced by Supreme, High, Circuit and District Court offices during the year. The Charters include the name of Customer Liaison Officers for individual offices. They also provide information on matters relating to the service provided by the particular office including expected delivery times.

User groups

User group meetings continued to afford the Service the opportunity to develop a customer-centred approach to service delivery and to seek feedback from groups who use court offices. They also afforded managers and staff the opportunity to suggest to users ways in which they could assist in improving service delivery. User groups for offices of the Supreme and High Courts, Dublin Circuit and Dublin District Courts were convened during the year. There are groups operating for High Court Probate, High Court Insolvency, High and Circuit Courts Family Law, cross jurisdictional civil litigation, Central and Circuit Criminal Courts, the Children Court and Dublin District Family Law Court. Each group met three times during the year. Meetings of user groups in regional venues around the country were convened on a regular basis during the year.

The second annual Central Customer Forum was convened in February 2006. Representatives of a total of 23 organisations engaged with the Chief Executive Officer and other members of staff to discuss a wide range of issues.

“Customer Charters serve a twofold purpose. First they provide information to users. Secondly they create a forum for staff to discuss their offices’ objectives and commit themselves to delivering a high quality service”.

Nuala McLoughlin
Director of Operations, Supreme and High Courts

Customer Complaints

The Service dealt with 11 formal customer complaints in 2006.

“The focus is on providing a top class service to all customers who come into contact with us. Whether their case is successful or otherwise, they should go away happy in the knowledge that the service they received in the court office was of the highest standard”.

*John Molloy,
Chief Clerk, Dublin Metropolitan District.*

Victims of crime

In 2006, regional managers commenced structured meetings with organisations representing or supporting victims of crime. In the Central Criminal Court and the Circuit Criminal Court special seating was provided for victims in murder and manslaughter cases. Special rooms were provided in all new and refurbished courthouses for victims, their families and organisations supporting victims. The new Criminal Courts Complex planned for Dublin (*see page 64*) will include comprehensive facilities for victims and their families including victim support and consultation rooms, video link/video conferencing facilities. The courtrooms in the new complex have been designed to minimise the proximity of victims and their families to defendants and accused persons.

Work commenced on the development of a section on the website (www.courts.ie) to provide a range of information for victims and witnesses.

The Service is represented on a cross-border Support for Victims Project Action Group, co chaired by the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform and the Northern Ireland Office established in 2006. At year end discussions were underway between the Service and the Courts Service of Northern Ireland with a view to improving the information available to victims of crime in one jurisdiction who reside in the other.

Better Regulation

Support for Court Rules Committee

The Service continued to provide administrative support, research and drafting resources for the three Court Rules Committees during the year. Provision was made in the Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2006 to establish a unified secretariat for all three Rules Committees.

The Service participated in a sub-committee established by the President of the District Court during the year to examine ways of rationalising the forms and procedural provisions regarding search warrants. A compendium of forms for warrants was compiled and furnished to the President for consideration as to the most appropriate approach to providing standard forms.

Reform of court procedures

The Service continued to support initiatives to reform court practices and procedures. Examples include:

Court procedure

The Reform and Development Directorate prepared various schemes of rules of court. Full lists of these are contained in Chapter 8. In the Superior Courts, rules were introduced to rationalise and simplify the procedures for statutory applications and appeals, and proceedings concerning arbitrations. In the Circuit Court, draft rules for case management by County Registrars of family law proceedings were prepared for the Circuit Court Rules Committee. In the District Court, the procedure in cases stated was modified to enable the court more effectively to monitor progress in preparing such cases.

County Registrars

A review of County Registrars' functions with a view to expanding the remit of the office of County Registrar, providing greater support to the Circuit Court at the pre-trial stage of litigation, and freeing up judicial time for trial work was carried out.

The review also identified an opportunity to transfer to County Registrars the function of taking evidence in foreign civil and commercial proceedings under Council Regulation (EC) No. 1206/2001. This function is currently performed by District Judges of the Dublin Metropolitan District. By year end, with the approval of the Presidents of

the Circuit Court and the District Court, the Service was preparing a draft procedural scheme to implement the proposal.

Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The Service formulated and submitted a range of proposals for incorporation into the Bill during the year. These included provisions regarding:

- ▣ rules committees support
- ▣ wardship visitation
- ▣ juries
- ▣ the facilitation of video-conferencing for civil proceedings
- ▣ the expansion of the eligibility qualifications requirements for appointment to the post of Registrar of Wards of Court, Examiner of the High Court and Probate Officer
- ▣ the authentication of District Court orders and warrants and assignment of District Court Clerks and
- ▣ the facilitation of personal service of documents in civil proceedings in the Circuit Court and District Court as an alternative to registered post.

Proposals were also submitted which would enable the establishment of a Courts Funds Office the remit of which would encompass both the functions currently carried out by the Accountant's Office (*see page 66*) and the Courts Accounting System (*see page 65*).

Case conferencing in the Circuit Court

A pilot case conferencing initiative to assist with the resolution of family law cases commenced in Limerick Circuit Court in October 2006. The case conference is, by agreement, a meeting held by the County Registrar with the solicitors for both parties which takes place after court proceedings have issued. The purpose is to narrow the issues for trial or to facilitate settlement of some or all of the issues between the parties. The County Registrar can make certain court orders, for example time for filing of documents, inspections of property, interim maintenance and access orders, and orders for discovery. Cases which have gone through the case conferencing procedure and are either settled or some issues remain to be dealt with by the court are fast tracked to a judge for hearing or to make any necessary orders.

Codification of Courts Legislation

At the request of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, the Law Reform Commission has initiated a project to codify the courts legislation. The Service is represented on a contact group tasked to provide input into the project which includes representatives of the Law Reform Commission, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and the judiciary. In addition to consolidation, it is anticipated that the project will identify opportunities for reform.

Wards of Court

The Service provided input into the deliberations of the Law Reform Commission in relation to its final report 'Vulnerable Adults' and the Law. The Report was published in December 2006.

Probate Office

In June 2006 a new application form was introduced, on a pilot basis, for solicitors applying for Grants of Representation of a deceased person's estate to either the Probate Office or one of the various District Probate Registries. Some 70 solicitors firms volunteered to participate in the pilot scheme. Feedback on their experience is scheduled for May 2007. The pilot is intended to pave the way to a more streamlined application form which will result in fewer delays for both solicitors and the Probate Office in the delivery of Grants of Representation to deceased persons' next of kin.



Another successful initiative was the introduction of a standardised Probate Practice and Procedure Programme. The objective is consistency of approach in the Probate Office and the 14 District Probate Registries.

Dublin Metropolitan District Court

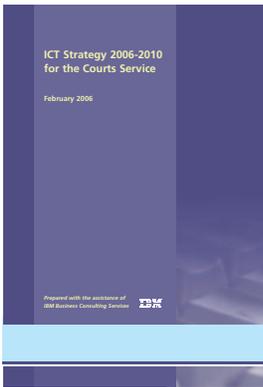
The initiative to encourage the payment of maintenance direct to bank accounts rather than through the District Court Office was successful with some 200 applications brought to the District Court in Dublin in August 2006. This initiative was extended to other District Court Offices in the latter part of 2006.

Information and Communications Technology

New information and communications technology strategy

The new information and communications strategy for 2006-2010 published during the year continues the extensive programme of work already underway while outlining ambitious plans for the future. It is specifically designed to enable the Service use technology to provide more expeditious processing of court business and improve service to those who use the courts and offices. The strategy has three key components: case management, information management and technology. Within the criminal jurisdiction, the programme of enhancing and extending the Criminal Case Management System to the Central Criminal Court, Special Criminal Court and Circuit Criminal Court continued. On the civil side a new initiative and significant challenge is the development and implementation of an integrated case management system to manage the processing of civil business (including family law cases) across all court jurisdictions. (see page 53)

The Service will avail of modern technology in the context of case management and particularly the electronic filing (*eFiling*) of court documents. The information maintained by the Service is central to the delivery of services. The new strategy addresses many issues in relation to the availability of information including a commitment to make registers and other public interest information available online on a 24/7 basis.



“Working together with the judiciary and those who interact with us we can deliver systems and technologies which will deliver benefits and efficiencies to the justice system and enhanced levels of service whether face to face or electronically to court users”

John Coyle, Director of Information and Communications Technology

Process review for civil and family law litigation procedures

A process review for civil and family law litigation (excluding licensing) in all jurisdictions commenced in 2006. The review is being undertaken with a view to standardising and redesigning processes to improve efficiency and customer service. It will also support the introduction of the intergrated case management system to manage the processing of civil business referred to on page 52. The process review is scheduled for completion in mid 2007.

Organisational support structure for ICT Projects



Information for use on Personal Digital Assistants (PDA)

The Service continued to explore ways of using technology to expand the ways in which information can be accessed by court users. The *Legal Diary* section of the website was made available to users of Personal Digital Assistants in 2006 on a 24/7 basis. This allows users access information about current and future court sittings for Dublin and courts around the country using hand held computer devices.



Video Conferencing/Video Link

Work continued during the year on the upgrade of the video system in five courtrooms within the Four Courts complex. Video link, video display and video conferencing facilities will be available in all five courtrooms. A further seven courts in the Four Courts complex will have new equipment installed for video display.

The Service continues to install video link, video display and video conferencing facilities in the larger new or refurbished courthouses. During the year such facilities were provided in Nenagh Courthouse with additional venues identified including Tullamore, Sligo, Castlebar, Ennis and Dundalk. Work on these provincial venues will commence early in 2007.

The first stage of technical testing commenced in November 2006 on the development of video conferencing between the courts and the prisons.

eGovernment

The provision of services that may be accessed 24/7 by court users continued to be a major priority for the Service in 2006.

“Online services including Small Claims Online, eJudgments, eCourt lists, ePayments, Progress Online and eSummonses are available on a 24/7 basis 365 days of the year in any location in Ireland or abroad via the internet. This is improving access to the courts for citizens and those who represent them”.

CEO, PJ Fitzpatrick

Small Claims Online

An eSmall Claims system, *Small Claims Online* (www.smallclaims.ie), was implemented on a pilot basis in November 2006. The pilot project which is available on a 24/7 basis enables members of the public lodge a small claim application online in 16 selected District Court offices. Users can pay the appropriate court fee online and track the progress of their case throughout the process by using a PIN (Personal Identification Number). At year end plans were underway to deploy the system to remaining District Court offices during 2007.



In the first two weeks following implementation 18% of all small claims received in the Dublin District Court office were lodged online.

Progress Online

Work commenced in 2006 to make the public search facility for the High Court Case Tracking System (PROGRESS) available on line to court users and the public via the website of the Service (www.courts.ie). Users will have access to the copy of the database which is already available in a read-only version. The PROGRESS System records all proceedings issued and documents filed in High Court civil cases. It also contains dates of court listings, the dates and a brief summary of orders of the High Court and the dates of High Court judgments.

eRegisters

A feasibility study in relation to making the Probate Register available online was completed during the year.

Other eServices

Judgments of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeal and the High Court continued to be made available on the website of the Service. The *Legal Diary* can be accessed at any time on the website together with a variety of other information relevant to the operation of the courts system including court fees, court rules, court forms, terms and sittings and practice directions.

A small claim can be lodged online in the following District Court offices – Bray, Castlebar, Clonakilty, Dublin Metropolitan, Killarney, Listowel, Swords, Trim, Carlow, Cavan, Cork, Dun Laoghaire, Limerick, Mallow, Tralee and Wexford.

Electronic transfer of summonses

Work on the implementation of an electronic interface for the receipt of all penalty point summons applications was completed during the year. The Service, in association with An Garda Síochána and REACH, has embarked on a pilot project to provide for the electronic transfer of information between the Service's Criminal Case Management System and the Garda PULSE system. The system will result in all summons applications being received electronically by the Service while details of court hearing dates and the outcome of cases heard in court will be electronically sent to An Garda Síochána. The pilot system will be implemented in late 2007.

Provision of information for the public

Increased range of publications

The range of information on the courts system was improved during the year with an number of additional publications. Examples included booklets explaining the operation of the Office of the Taxing Master of the High Court and the procedure for obtaining maintenance in the District Court, and leaflets on the procedure for making a small claim online, the procedure for obtaining a refund of bail in the Circuit Court, the Four Courts, the Judges' Library and Cloverhill Courthouse. Information for those seeking judgment for liquidated amounts in Dublin Circuit Court office was published together with information on the website on the work of the Supreme Court, the

High Court Examiner's Office and the Central Office of the High Court.

Information of a historical nature was provided in a number of heritage leaflets. A chart containing information for licensing practitioners relevant for 2006 on all District Court applications including information on time limits for various applications, court fees applicable and publication requirements was also published.

Wall planners and calendars featured the refurbishment work carried out on Lismore, Nenagh and Longford courthouses.

Information in Irish

The Service remains committed to the production of information in Irish. Leaflets and booklets published during the year were published in Irish and available in Irish on the website. 'Courts Service News' the magazine of the Service was also published in Irish on the website.

Information in audio format

The Service provided information in audio format accessible from the website (www.courts.ie). This included information for customers interested in applying in person for probate and information for those intending to lodge a small claim in the District Court.



Information in other languages

The Service must take account of the increasing diversity of court users. Many do not speak English or Irish as a first language. The programme to provide information in a range of languages continued with the publication of information on a selection of court procedures including small claims and bail in a range of languages in addition to English and Irish. They include French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Polish.

Educating young citizens

Work continued on the development of a resource pack for second level students. The pack, which includes notes for teachers, handouts for students and a DVD, is being developed in cooperation with the Department of Education and Science and a number of second level schools around the country. At year end a pilot version of the pack had been

distributed to selected schools with feedback requested by March 2007.

The Service continued its support for the National Mock Trial Competition still the largest transition year competition in the country. The 2006 competition involved over 100 schools and comprised five separate categories: the mock trial and sections for court artists, television reporters, newspapers reporters and court photographers. The Service provided staff, equipment and 14 courtrooms in the Four Courts for the semi finals and final of the competition in April 2006.

The Service continued to accommodate visits to the Four Courts and other court buildings for second level and other students in 2006. A total of 175 tours involving 3,978 students and 264 teachers was organised for second level students in the Four Courts alone. Tours were also provided in courthouses around the country including Kilkenny, Mullingar, Castlebar, Cork, Fermoy, Mallow, Nenagh, Naas, Cavan, Port Laoise, Tullamore and Roscommon.

Many offices continued to afford students an opportunity to work in a court office as part of work experience initiatives during the year. Such placements allowed second and third level students participate in a limited way in the administration of the court system in several offices in Dublin including the Four Courts and Phoenix House and offices around the country including Naas and Cork.

The Service was short-listed in two categories, 'State Body eGovernment Award' and 'Irish Language eGovernment Award' as part of the Irish eGovernment awards in December. The short-listing was in recognition of the work carried out on the development of the website of the Service and the development of 'Small Claims Online'. The awards, hosted by Public Sector Times and Elucidate, recognise excellence in Irish eGovernment and technology innovation.

TOTAL MONTHLY VISITS TO WEBSITE

Month	2006	2005
January	77,530	49,067
February	76,522	52,112
March	84,389	50,154
April	64,416	54,498
May	78,726	53,441
June	69,875	51,681
July	76,119	49,691
August	58,863	41,463
September	63,616	46,996
October	91,086	69,339
November	99,377	77,122
December	73,855	56,150

Website

At year end court lists from 24 Circuit Court offices were available on the website (www.courts.ie). A pilot project had commenced with some District Court offices to assess the advisability of posting District Court lists to the site. Work commenced on the development of an Irish website.

Visits to the site showed a substantial increase on visits for 2005. In November 2006 the number of visits was 99,377 the highest monthly figure recorded to date. The most visited sections of the site continue to be the *Legal Diary* section and the section containing judgments of the Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeal and High Court.

Cork Courthouse

Information by other agencies

The Service continued to promote information prepared by other agencies on the work of the courts where appropriate. Booklets produced by family law support groups and the Director of Public Prosecutions were distributed and made available in court offices during the year.

Interpretation services

The Service concluded a contract with an external provider during 2006 to provide interpretation services in all courts.

Family Law Information

The Service commenced a project on a pilot basis in 2006 to provide information on the outcome of cases coming before the family law courts. The project includes publishing statistics, trends, and judgments, and reporting on proceedings in family law courts. The project will provide information to the judiciary, legal practitioners and the general public in relation to family law matters. The first Report of the project will be published in early 2007 (*see also page 28*).

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACTS

	2006	2005
Requests received	16	21
Access granted/part granted	13	15
Refused	1	2
Handled outside Acts	1	3
Transferred/Withdrawn	1	1

Freedom of Information

The Service remains committed to the full implementation of the Freedom of Information Acts and continues to maintain a high quality of decision making in responding to all requests under the Acts. The trend evident in previous years of a reduction in the number of formal requests continued in 2006. The Freedom of Information Unit did however continue to deal with a high number of queries by telephone, email and through general correspondence in relation to the courts and court records. There were 35 written requests outside the Freedom of Information Acts and approximately 41 general written requests relating to the Acts. The Unit dealt with 120 emails and telephone queries. Training was provided to enable the Freedom of Information Officer, deciding officers and appeals officers maintain a high standard of decision making skills.

The Freedom of Information Officer continues to participate in the Public Service Users Network group (PSUN), a group of Freedom of Information Officers in public service bodies who exchange information in relation to requests made under the Freedom of Information Acts.

Outreach initiative

Courthouses in Dublin and around the country were used for the outreach initiative. Examples of regional courthouses included Kells where an adult literacy group was accommodated and Athlone where student Gardai in the Westmeath area participated in mock courts.

Outreach

Programmes tailored to suit community groups interested in specific aspects of the work of the courts were organised in 2006. This initiative affords the Service an opportunity to provide information in a targeted way tailored to meet the particular needs of a variety of interest groups. A programme can include an opportunity to meet and discuss matters of interest with court personnel including judges, court staff, media relations personnel and barristers together with an opportunity to observe a court hearing. Groups availing of this initiative during the year included those advising on personal debt; third level students of law, medicine and media; senior citizens; public servants; and family law and other community based support organisations.

Media

The dedicated Media Relations Service continued to provide a central point of contact between court offices and a wide range of interests including television, radio and print media during the year. The Media Relations Service provided accurate and timely information regarding court proceedings and the operation of the courts and promoted developments and achievements of the Courts Service during the year. Approximately 10,000 queries from the media were dealt with covering a broad range of issues including details of court proceedings, practice and procedure in the courts, statistics on the work of the courts and information to assist with historical research.

A number of media releases were issued during the year relating to a wide variety of matters including the opening of courthouses, clarification of inaccuracies about the courts and the Courts Service, information to inform debate in the public sphere, updates on building projects and details of the completion of major Courts Service initiatives.

Visits, including an opportunity to discuss matters of interest with a judge, were facilitated for students of journalism in Dublin and Cork District Court. The Media Relations Service continued to work with third level institutions to organise simulated news days and investigative training programmes. The Media Relations Advisor lectured students in a number of third level colleges and other centres of education at under-graduate and post-graduate level in Dublin.

The provision of modern facilities for the media continued to form an important part of the building programme of the Courts Service in 2006. New media rooms were provided in the refurbished courthouses in Nenagh and Longford.

Jurors

The Service established a committee to examine the arrangements for the formation and composition of jury panels, facilities for jurors, information provided for jurors and other relevant issues. At year end the committee was in the final stages of its deliberations.

Information for jurors and others interested in the matter of jury service was provided in a new section on the website (www.courts.ie). The section 'Jury

Service is a guide through jury service from the time a person receives a summons to the completion of the trial process. The section also allows prospective jurors confirm that their attendance is required on particular days.

Capital Building Programme

The Service continued the major programme of work to provide modern 21st century court buildings in all parts of the country during 2006. The Service is very aware that the vast majority of members of the public who use the courts are reluctant participants in the court process. Particular attention is therefore given to making what can be an unpleasant ordeal as comfortable as possible. This includes the provision of jury facilities, rooms for victims, facilities for the professionals who use the courts including lawyers, the Probation Service, the Prison Service, members of An Garda Síochána, accused persons and prisoners. The building programme was boosted by the allocation of substantial additional funding under the new National Development Plan 2007-2013. The funding includes €504 million for the Capital Programme of the Service including building and information and communications technology.

The additional allocation means that the Capital Building Programme can be fast tracked and many projects which would not have been reached between 2007 and 2010 can be undertaken within that time frame. These include Kilkenny, Killarney, Monaghan, Mullingar, Tralee, Wicklow, Wexford and Roscommon. It also includes projects at a number of smaller venues.

Tour of new courthouse for court users

The Service hosted an informal visit to the new courthouse in Bray for court users. The visit allowed local legal practitioners, staff from the Legal Aid Board, the Prison Escort Service and some other justice agencies to view the new facility at first hand before the new courthouse opened for business.

Longford Courthouse

Projects completed in 2006

The refurbished and extended courthouse in Longford was re-opened in July 2006. Work was completed on the refurbishment of Nenagh and Tullamore courthouses. Construction of new courthouses in Bray and Belmullet was completed. Court sittings resumed in refurbished accommodation in New Ross while improvements were carried out in Enniscorthy and Gorey. A major upgrade of facilities was undertaken in Achill.

A number of additional courtrooms were provided in Dublin. An additional courtroom was provided in the Bow Street court building with work on the provision of a third courtroom on course for completion in April 2007. The Taxing Master's Offices and Courts were transferred to new accommodation. The programme for Dublin included refurbishment work in the Four Courts, Tallaght, Richmond, Dolphin House, Balbriggan, Swords, and Chancery Street.

Projects in progress at end of 2006

By year end work was well advanced on the refurbishment of Fermoy courthouse. This joint development with Cork County Council will be completed in early 2007. Plans were advanced to provide new court facilities in Blanchardstown.

Projects to commence in 2007

Plans for the refurbishment of Kilkenny courthouse were finalised with work to commence in 2007. Work will commence on the refurbishment of Thurles courthouse in early 2007. Plans were prepared for new court facilities in Ardee. Work will commence in early 2007. Work will commence in the provision of additional facilities at Monaghan courthouse in the latter half of 2007 and on the provision of new facilities in Gorey.

Maintenance

The construction of new court buildings and the refurbishment of others continues to be complemented by a major maintenance programme. The scale, extent and variety of the court building stock requires constant upgrading and attention. Maintenance works were carried out in court buildings all around the country in 2006 including Ballina, Ballinasloe, Ennis, Galway, Loughrea, Swinford, Enniscorthy, Athy, Naas, Glenties, Carndonagh, Monaghan, Carrick-on-Shannon, Ballyconnell, Buncrana, Drogheda, Bailieborough, Virginia, Dundalk, Donegal, Port Laoise, Portarlinton, Castlecomer, Boyle, Enniscorthy, Gorey and Achill.

Public Private Partnerships

The Criminal Courts Complex in Dublin will be delivered by way of a public private partnership. By year end contract negotiations in respect of the proposed development had been completed. Construction will commence in May 2007.

The Service will provide additional court facilities around the country using the public private partnership model. Venues identified include Drogheda, Limerick, Cork District Court, Waterford, North Kildare (Maynooth, Celbridge and Leixlip), Swords, Tallaght and Letterkenny. In 2006 work continued to procure sites suitable for court building development.

The Criminal Courts Complex – building for the 21st century.

The Criminal Courts Complex will be a state of the art criminal justice facility suited to the administration of criminal justice in 21st century Ireland. It will comprise 22 courts with modern facilities for all court users including staff, judges, the public, jurors, victims, witnesses, lawyers, prisoners, members of An Garda Síochána and the Prison Service. The building has been designed to concentrate all central Dublin criminal business in one location. It will overcome the existing security, service delivery and logistical problems associated with running criminal trials in a number of sites dispersed throughout the Four Courts complex.

Efficient use of resources

Financial information

The production of timely and meaningful financial information is an important part of the internal financial controls of the Service. Since January 2006 enhanced financial reports have been made available to the Board and budget holders.

Courts Accounting System

Work continued during the year on the establishment of a computerised Courts Accounting System to process fines, bail, family law maintenance, poor box and court fees. Among the enhancement to services which this will deliver will be the payment of fines online and the electronic payment of family law maintenance.

During 2007 the new approach will be tested on a pilot basis. The pilot phase will see all court fines and poor box payments for Dublin Metropolitan District Courts and certain other court offices in greater Dublin processed centrally. The pilot phase will also include Sligo District Court. This phase will be reviewed in the second half of 2007. The Service plans to commence the roll-out of the system to all District Court Offices before the end of 2007.

Funds management



The transfer of funds from Circuit and District Court offices to the Office of the Accountant of the Courts of Justice (Accountant's Office) commenced in 2006. With effect from 11th January 2006 all new Circuit and District Courts funds are lodged in the Accountant's Office. Work continued during the year to transfer all legacy

funds held in all Circuit and District Courts offices. There are approximately 13,000 cases with a value of €134 million.

Total funds managed by the Accountant's Office increased to €937.2 million at the end of September 2006, an increase of €88.6 million on the 2005 amount.

A new cash only fund was established. Investing in this fund commenced on 21st June 2006 for cases which have a duration of less than two years or where the duration is not known.

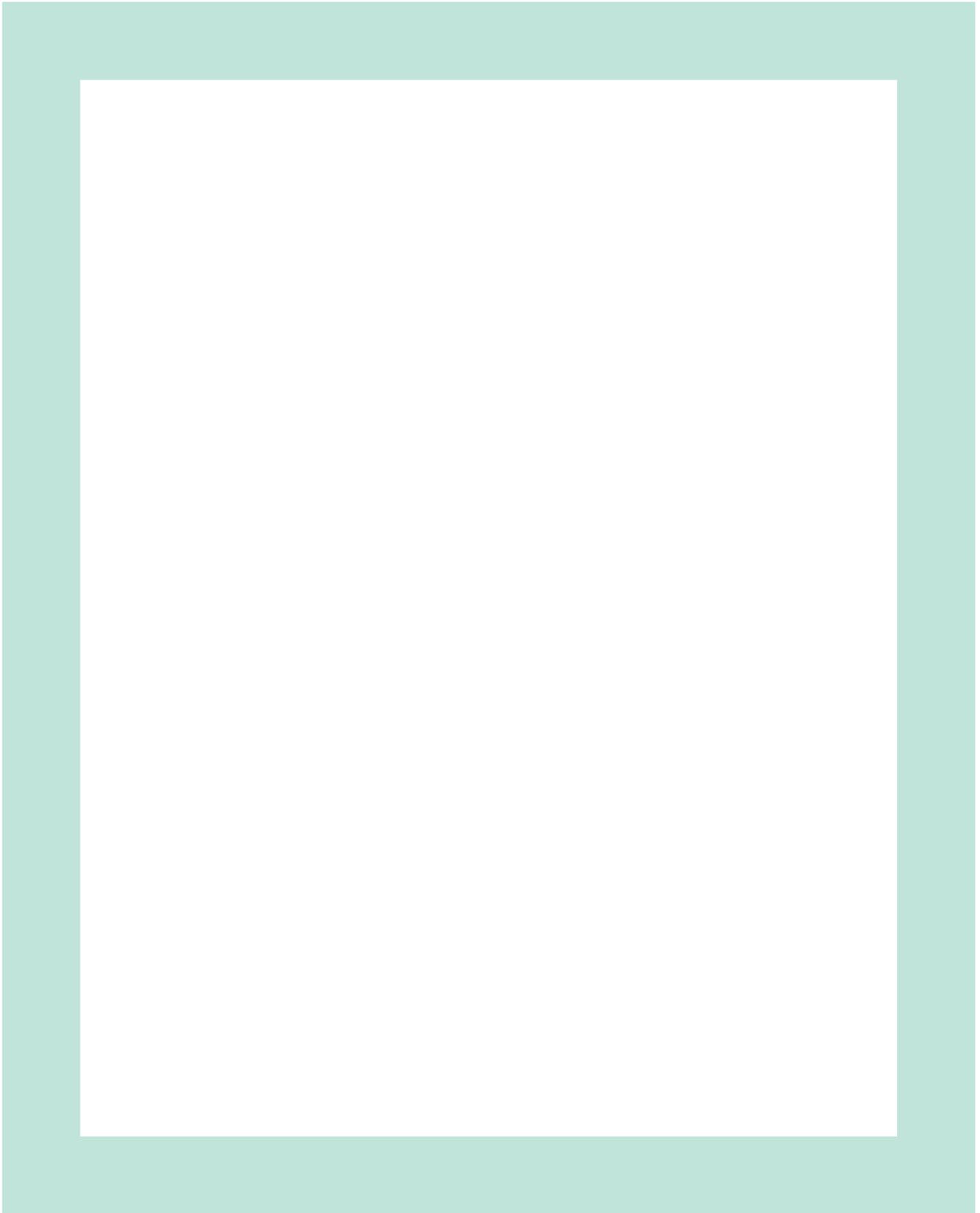
Fostering links with colleagues in other jurisdictions

Annual Courts Services Conferences

The Courts Services Conferences 2006 was hosted by the Service in Farmleigh in Dublin in October. In addition to staff of the Service the Conference was attended by delegates from England & Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. Presentations at the Conference covered a wide range of topics including case management initiatives (Ireland), performance management in the criminal justice system (England & Wales), High Court reform (Scotland) and tackling delay in the justice system (Northern Ireland).

Visits by colleagues from abroad

Representatives from nine African nations including Mauritius, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zambia spent a week training with the Service in November. They were part of a group of Superior Court Registrars who came to study the operations of the Supreme and High Courts in Ireland under an initiative organised by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe. The event, which acknowledges that information and learning are not confined within national and regional borders, allowed for a wide sense of the variation with which different countries organise court matters.



Chapter 5
Supporting Staff

Chapter 5

Supporting staff

The Service is acutely aware that service organisations rely on their staff for success. Staff are critical in seeking to develop a world class Service. The Service continues to foster a culture of staff involvement and participation and encourages staff to be creative and innovative. Staff development continues to be a major part of the Service's strategic planning. The Strategic Plan 2005-2008 contains specific strategies aimed at both encouraging staff involvement and equipping them to deal with an ever changing working environment.

Training

Technical legal training

An initiative titled '*Technical Legal Training*' was a key component of the training programme during 2006. Step by step guides were prepared in-house to provide comprehensive information on practice and procedures for staff in offices throughout the Service on a wide range of matters including criminal law and family law in the District Court and criminal law in the Circuit Court. Electronic training manuals were completed for use by Registrars in the High Court.

The Office of Wards of Court provided training on tax matters, enduring powers of attorney, conveyancing and probate and pre-wardship matters. The office also completed a comprehensive training manual and a revised booklet to reflect new changes to investment strategies. In the Office of the Examiner of the High Court training on the theory and practice

associated with next-of-kin inquiries and administration suits was provided. The office commenced work on guidelines for staff dealing with mortgage suits. The Official Assignee's Office produced comprehensive training manuals on the law of personal insolvency. In Monaghan Circuit Court, training was provided for staff of the Circuit and District Court and Regional Office on the role of the Registrar in a criminal trial. As part of this initiative mock trials were held in the courtroom.

Legal qualifications

The Service commenced a review during the year of staff with legal qualifications. The information obtained will be used to identify staff legal training requirements for the future.

Supporting staff in further education

The Service continued to encourage staff to enhance their knowledge and skills by undertaking studies in their own time in academically recognised third level courses. In 2006, 49 staff availed of the refund of fees scheme, special leave for study and paid leave for examinations. In addition, staff were sponsored to attend conferences, seminars and workshops relating to their areas of work. Examples of the type of events attended included legal seminars on legislative change, changes in government procedures, human resource management, financial management and project management.

Information and communications technology (ICT) training

The Service now relies on a large number of computer systems covering all aspects of the work of the courts. Training in the use of these systems is vital if the Service is to obtain the maximum benefit from them and so improve efficiencies. In 2006, the ICT training programme continued. This included ongoing training in the use of systems in the criminal, civil and family law areas and in the financial and human resource areas. A new initiative in 2006 was the training provided for staff in Circuit Court offices around the country to enable them post court lists to the website of the Service.

General training

A new training programme for staff of the Higher Executive Officer grade was developed during the year. It includes a module called '*Doing it Differently*' to reflect the importance of innovation and change in the approach to service delivery.

Other initiatives included:

- ▣ Pilot project of executive coaching for senior managers at Director and Principal Officer level
- ▣ Specialised programmes in health and safety, bullying and harassment investigation, project management, customised programmes and events for individual offices, and Clerical Officer and Executive Officer development programmes.

“Middle Managers must become change champions creating a change readiness within the organisation. They must understand both the strategic and cultural change roles of the projects”.

*Terry Agnew,
Organisational and Development Unit.*

Organisation Development Unit

During 2006 the Service established an Organisation Development Unit within the Human Resources Directorate. The objective of the Unit is to improve the capacity for managing change and to improve the overall performance of the organisation through a number of key strategic projects.

Henley Management College

As part of its remit the Unit developed a change management programme ‘*Managing Change Through Projects*’ with the Henley Management College, one of the leading management colleges in England. The objective of the programme was to provide senior managers involved in the major change projects underway in the Service with the tools, knowledge and skills to effectively manage the projects in a manner that realises the business benefits for the Service.

Objectives of the Henley Management Programme ‘*Managing Change Through Projects*’

- ▣ Help participants understand the change environment impacting on the Service and in turn on the projects
- ▣ Help those involved in the projects as project sponsors, project managers, business leaders or as members of project boards understand the change process the Service is going through
- ▣ Provide participants with a set of project and change management tools which will allow them manage the projects to a successful conclusion
- ▣ Enable participants apply these tools to their respective projects
- ▣ Develop participants’ skills to allow them provide leadership to their projects

The programme was also designed to specifically focus on a number of key projects with a view to ensuring their successful implementation. Some of these projects are referred to elsewhere in this Report and include:

- ▣ The Courts Accounting System
- ▣ the Civil Case Management System (to include eFiling)
- ▣ the establishment of a unified office (a 'one stop shop') for all court jurisdictions in the new criminal court complex in Dublin
- ▣ the implementation of a fully integrated Performance Management Development System (PMDS)
- ▣ the further development of the Criminal Case Management System

The Henley programme aims to build a capability within the Service to manage change on an ongoing basis through the application of well established techniques and theories.

Organisational Review Projects

The Organisation and Development Unit assisted a number of review projects during 2006. These included the review of the family law office in the Dublin Metropolitan District Court, a review of business planning and the development of a competency framework for senior managers.

“Evaluation of training courses and development initiatives provides the organisation with feedback on the effectiveness of the training activities. It assists in the identification of training courses and interventions which increase the levels of performance and empower staff to meet the challenges facing the organisation going forward”.

CEO, PJ Fitzpatrick

Value for money review of Training and Development

The Service undertook a value for money review of training and development in 2006. The project in its evaluation of the training and development process within the organisation attempted to establish the worth of the training course and initiatives undertaken. The 'worth' means the value, merit or excellence of the training initiatives.

The project will inform the Service of the direction it should take in deepening the learning culture it has created since its inception.

Consulting with staff

The policy of seeking to create an inclusive working environment where staff participation is valued and encouraged was evidenced in 2006 by a variety of consultation exercises with staff. An example was in the plans for the development of the new Criminal Courts Complex in Dublin. Staff at both operational and support level were involved in a comprehensive consultation programme to ensure that the new Complex will meet both user and staff requirements.

Team working arrangements in many court offices continued to provide a basis for efficient service during 2006. Such arrangements allow for continuity of work practices, good customer service and cover for absent staff.

Staff mobility

Lateral mobility between staff of the Circuit and District Courts offices in provincial areas continued in 2006. Such cross jurisdictional assistance improved the quality of the service to users and afforded staff the opportunity to develop additional skills. Offices where staff mobility was promoted included Castlebar, Sligo, Cavan, Dundalk, Monaghan, Leitrim and Carrick on Shannon.

Improved accommodation for training

The provision of a dedicated training centre in the Western Regional Office facilitated the provision of training locally, reducing disruption to offices and travelling inconvenience for staff. The new centre facilitated training on a diverse range of topics including posting court lists to the website, health and safety, 'Small Claims Online', partnership, performance management and development and grade development.

Performance Management Development System (PMDS)

Training was provided on the new Performance Management Development System (PMDS) and its integration with other human resource processes. The integrated model is an enhancement to the system which has been in place for a number of years. The new model integrates the performance management system with other human resource management systems including increments, promotions and disciplinary matters. The new model will be in place in 2007 and will be fully integrated by the beginning of 2008.

Reviews of performance and role profile forms were completed for all staff as part of the Performance Management Development System during the year. The System provides clarity of staff roles and responsibilities and the management of performance and underperformance in a structured and focused manner. It also provides a valuable forum for identifying training requirements.

Reporting on progress

During 2006 the Service submitted a sixth and final Progress Report to the Performance Verification Group on its modernisation action plan under *Sustaining Progress*. The Group decided that the progress achieved by the Service in relation to the commitments in *Sustaining Progress* on stable industrial relations, co-operation with flexibility and ongoing change, as well as satisfactory implementation of the agenda for modernisation warranted payment of the general round pay increase due from June 2006 to all staff. The Service also prepared an action plan based on the commitments in *Towards 2016*. (See page 48)

Partnership

The Service continued to utilise the partnership process in 2006 to address issues including customer service, business planning, waste management, action plan for the implementation of *Towards 2016*, Performance Management Development System (PMDS) and the implementation of the Disability Act. Partnership committees continued to operate at regional level with the Chief Executive Officer continuing to chair the Central Partnership Committee.

A review of partnership in the Service was concluded in 2006. Following the review, a comprehensive training programme was implemented for the partnership committees.

Employee Assistance

The Service employs an Employee Assistance Officer to provide a comprehensive support service for staff. The Officer, who is professionally qualified, continued to be proactive in advising staff of the nature of the service available.

'Lunch and Learn'

An employee assistance initiative designed to provide staff with information on a range of social and work related issues during the lunch break continued in 2006. The 'Lunch and Learn' programme limited in the first instance to Dublin was extended to regional areas with a session held in Castlebar in May. Topics featured at the sessions during the year included managing personal finances, dealing with panic attacks, life coaching, parenting and enduring powers of attorney.

Stable Industrial Relations

The Service continues to enjoy a very constructive and productive working relationship with the staff trade unions. Through the combined use of the Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme and the partnership process, a very positive industrial climate continues to be maintained.

In addition to assisting the judiciary in the day to day operation of the courts in Ireland, many staff of the Service continued to participate in a wide range of projects during the year. This included acting as project managers, serving on project boards and committees and testing computer systems. This additional commitment on the part of staff continued to drive the modernisation programme of the Service in 2006.

Conciliation and Arbitration

The Conciliation and Arbitration process continued to deal with many staff issues during the year. They included claims for allowances and upgradings, outsourcing of work, issues relating to the employment of contract staff, the reorganisation of District Courts, guidelines for dealing with family law matters and the adoption of a code for dealing with complaints.

Work/life balance

The Service makes available to staff a range of flexible working arrangements consistent with the requirement to ensure that acceptable levels of service are provided for the public and the judiciary. These include term-time, flexi-time and other family friendly working arrangements. There were 200 applications for flexible working arrangements in 2006.

Assisting staff with disabilities

The Service continued to adopt a proactive approach to meet the needs of staff with a disability during the year. The necessary organisational and technical supports are in place to facilitate the employment of persons with a disability and to support existing employees who have disabilities. These supports include a Disability Officer, the provision of training tailored to the needs of staff with disability on an ongoing basis and the provision of suitable facilities and equipment. The Service employs in excess of the 3% set out in the Disability Act 2005 for the employment of persons with disabilities.

The Service's Disability Awareness Training Programme continued to increase awareness and understanding of the contribution that people with a disability make to the organisation.

Decentralisation

The Service continued to actively manage the Government's decentralisation programme.

Staff promotion

Work commenced in 2006 on the development of new selection criteria for staff promotion. These criteria will reflect an innovative approach and will be in place in 2007.

Human Resources Strategy

Work on a new Human Resources Strategy for the Service continued during the year.



Staff

Staff continued to participate in a wide range and variety of activities outside of the workplace during 2006. The resulting improvement in communication, interpersonal and other skills greatly benefited the working environment of the Service.

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Court Statistics

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Introduction

The programme to improve the statistical information on the work of the courts and court offices continued in 2006. The ongoing information and communications technology programme has delivered year on year improvements in the range and quality of information available. At the same time, the Service continues to develop enhanced data quality control measures to ensure accuracy and consistency of the data produced.

The statistics in this Chapter are for the period from 1st January 2006 to 31st December 2006. They are presented by reference to specific categories of law: criminal, civil (excluding family), family and licensing. An overview of the performance of the courts in 2006 is in Chapter 2. In some instances statistics for 2005 and previous years are provided for comparison purposes.

The classification and categorisation used by the Service has been used to produce the statistics in this Chapter. These may differ from other agencies such as An Garda Síochána, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement.

LAW TERMS 2006	
Hilary:	11th January to 7th April
Easter:	24th April to 1st June
Trinity:	14th June to 31st July
Michaelmas:	2nd October to 21st December



Section 1

SUPREME COURT

Section 1 - Supreme Court

APPEALS RECEIVED AND DISPOSED OF: 2001 TO 2006

Year	Received	Disposed
2006	484	202
2005	446	211
2004	531	722*
2003	440	304
2002	415	324
2001	361	243
Total	2,677	2,006

* 432 of these appeals were disposed of in the review of uncertified appeals list.

JUDGMENTS

	2006	2005
Outstanding at 01/01	14	19
Judgments reserved	64	66
Judgments delivered	67	71
Outstanding at 31/12	11	14

OUTCOME OF APPEALS DISPOSED OF

	2006	2005
Appeal dismissed: High Court order affirmed	102	91
Appeal allowed: High Court order set aside	19	51
Appeal allowed: High Court order varied	26	16
Appeal struck out by consent	54	48
Cases stated determined	1	5
Total	202	211

APPEALS RECEIVED AND DISPOSED OF

Nature of Appeal	Received	Disposed
Asylum	24	9
Attachment/ Committal	2	0
Bail	18	8
Bankruptcy	0	2
Case Stated: District Court Appeal	4	0
Central Criminal Court	1	0
Chancery final order	9	12
Chancery interim/interlocutory	55	2
Circuit Court	1	0
Circuit Court case stated	7	1
Commercial List	14	8
Common Law interim/interlocutory	32	7
Companies Act	5	4
Competition	4	0
Consolidation	1	0
Constitution	0	1
Contract	0	2
Courts Martial Court	1	0
Criminal Assets Bureau	5	4
Discharge Masters Order	1	0
Discovery	0	3
Dismissed for want of prosecution	22	6
Examiner miscellaneous	0	1
Extradition/European Arrest Warrant	22	9
European Union Law	0	1
Family	10	3
Garda Compensation	1	0
Habeas Corpus/Article 40	15	11
Hepatitis C	1	0

Information Commissioner appeal	0	1
Join 3rd party as co-defendant	0	2
Judgment Summary Summons	4	3
Judicial Review: ex parte refused	9	15
Judicial Review: final refused	28	15
Judicial Review: interim/interlocutory	10	3
Judicial Review: planning	6	4
Judicial Review: injunction final	0	5
Judicial Review: Declaration final	0	5
Judicial Review: strike out final	1	0
Judicial Review: Certiorari final	0	6
Judicial Review: Mandamus final	0	1
Judicial Review: Prohibition final	32	5
Jury Actions	2	0
Medical Negligence	0	1
Motions	34	12
Non Jury action	16	1
Personal injury	58	20
Planning Act Section 160 final	4	1
Preliminary issue	4	0
Probate	1	0
Section 29 Court of Criminal Appeal	4	6
Security for costs	2	0
Solicitors Act	10	2
Solicitor Off Record	3	0
Wards of court	1	0
Total	484	202

An additional 35 appeals were withdrawn by letter, and a further 7 appeals were withdrawn or struck out in the case management list.

APPEALS LODGED BY

Appellants in person	57
Appellants in custody	6

LENGTH OF APPEAL

One day or less	188
Two days or more	15

MOTIONS

Motions Lodged	136
Motions Disposed of (7 motions adjourned to January 2007 (+ 4 carried over from Dec 2005)	133

SUPREME COURT OFFICE

Commissioners appointed	28
Notaries Public appointed	8
Certificates of authentication issued	8,832
Number called to the Inner Bar	12
Number called to the Outer Bar	152
Declarations made by newly appointed judges	9
Extensions of time granted to County Registrars/District Judges	5

NUMBER OF JUDGES HEARING APPEALS

Three judges	153
Five judges	41
Seven judges	1

Section 2 CRIMINAL

Section 2 - Criminal

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEAL

APPEALS BY REFERENCE TO TRIAL COURT

Court	On hand 01/01	Appeals lodged	Disposed of	On hand 31/12
Circuit Criminal Court	151	155	197	109
Central Criminal Court	56	42	55	43
Special Criminal Court	27	6	21	12
Courts-Martial Appeal Court	1	0	1	0
Appeals by the Director of Public Prosecutions	37	41	50	28
Criminal Procedure Act appeals	7	0	5	2
Total	279	244	329	194

The Director of Public Prosecutions can appeal against sentence to the Court of Criminal Appeal on the grounds of undue leniency under section 2 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1993. In the case of an alleged miscarriage of justice, an appeal may be lodged under section 2 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1993.

APPEALS BY REFERENCE TO TYPE OF APPEAL

	On hand 01/01	Appeals lodged	Disposed of	On hand 31/12
Conviction and sentence	71	43	62	52
Conviction only	54	32	49	37
Sentence only	154	169	218	105
Total	279	244	329	194

SECTION 2 CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT, 1993

(APPEALS AGAINST SENTENCE BY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS)

	2006	2005
Refused	15	9
Original sentence quashed and sentence imposed in lieu	33	18
Struck out	0	1
Adjourned generally with liberty to re-enter	0	1
Liberty to withdraw granted	2	0
Total	50	29

OUTCOME OF APPEALS AGAINST SENTENCE

	2006	2005
Refused	56	38
Liberty to withdraw granted	28	24
Original sentence quashed and sentence imposed in lieu	40	40
Struck out appeal	10	8
Order quashed and order imposed in lieu	0	1
Adjourned generally with liberty to re-enter	3	0
Total	137	111

OUTCOME OF APPEALS AGAINST CONVICTION

	2006	2005
Refused	34	24
Liberty to withdraw granted	2	2
Conviction quashed, re-trial directed	1	6
Conviction quashed (no re-trial)	3	4
Appeal struck out	0	5
Adjourned generally with liberty to re-enter	5	0
Total	45	41

OUTCOME OF APPEALS AGAINST CONVICTION AND SENTENCE

	2006	2005
Refused	19	18
Conviction affirmed, sentence varied	14	9
Conviction quashed, re-trial directed	7	7
Conviction quashed (no re-trial)	8	6
Appeal struck out	2	3
Adjourned generally with liberty to re-enter	4	1
Liberty to withdraw granted	3	1
Total	57	45

Note: There were also 62 ordinary appeals withdrawn in the office in 2005

There were also 34 ordinary appeals withdrawn in the office in 2006

APPEALS RECEIVED AND DISPOSED OF: 2000 TO 2006

	Received	Disposed
2006	244	329
2005	257	290
2004	257	266
2003	257	347
2002	237	273
2001	287	216
2000	237	233
Total	1,776	1,954

HIGH COURT (BAIL)

Only the High Court has jurisdiction to deal with bail applications where a person is charged with murder. Application may also be made to the High Court where an applicant wishes to obtain a variation of the terms of a bail order made by a District Court judge.

Number of applications issued	1,626
Orders made on own surety	500
Orders made on own surety and cash lodgment	94
Orders made on third party surety	199
Refused	323
Refused under Bail Act, 1997	16
Revoked	72
Withdrawn	212
Struck out	153
Orders varied	140
Consolidate	32
Other orders made	56

OUTCOME OF APPLICATIONS DISPOSED OF

Granted	793
Refused	339
Withdrawn/ struck out	365
Varied	140

JURIES

Court	Number of summonses issued
Central Criminal	19,000
Circuit Criminal (Provincial)	54,018
Circuit Criminal (Dublin)	18,100
Total	91,118

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

MURDER

MURDER CASES: 2000 TO 2006

	Received	Disposed
2006	33	52
2005	35	42
2004	28	59
2003	39	58
2002	55	48
2001	31	32
2000	42	33
Total	263	324

OUTCOME OF CASES DISPOSED OF

	2006	2005
Convicted of murder	15	16
Convicted of offences other than murder	22	15
Found not guilty by reason of insanity	2	3
Acquitted	9	4
Other (including nolle prosequi)	4	4
Total	52	42

SENTENCES IMPOSED

	2006	2005
Life imprisonment	17	16
Over 10 years	2	0
Over 5 years to 10 years	13	12
Over 3 years to 5 years	6	3
Other	3	2
Not guilty by reason of insanity	2	3

PLEAS / JURY TRIALS

	2006	2005
Guilty pleas	6	11
Jury trials	42	25

RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES

RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES: 2000 TO 2006

	Received	Disposed
2006	58	61
2005	44	75
2004	40	72
2003	52	100
2002	82	93
2001	92	98
2000	113	94
Total	481	593

OUTCOME OF CASES DISPOSED OF

	2006	2005
Convicted of rape	27	10
Convicted of rape and other offences	0	20
Convicted of other sexual offences	14	10
Acquitted	8	15
Other (including nolle prosequi)	12	20
Total	61	75

SENTENCES IMPOSED IN CASES

	2006	2005
Life	1	0
Over 12 years	3	3
Over 5 years to 12 years	24	20
Up to 5 years	9	13
Other*	4	7

* Includes suspended sentences, bench warrants

PLEAS / JURY TRIALS

	2006	2005
Guilty pleas	23	25
Jury trials	23	34

OTHER CASES

	Received	Disposed
	4	2

SPECIAL CRIMINAL COURT

CASES DISPOSED OF 2000 TO 2006

Year	Cases	Accused persons
2006	10	16
2005	6	21
2004	15	30
2003	9	19
2002	13	22
2001	18	32
2000	26	36
Total	97	176

	2006	2005
On hand 01/01	42	41
Received	6	7
Disposed of	10	6
Outstanding 31/12	38	42

	Trials	People	Convicted on plea of not guilty	Convicted on pleas of guilty	Struck out/nolle prosequi/acquitted
2006	10	16	12	0	4
2005	6	21	10	11	0
2004	15	30	13	10	7
2003	9	19	7	6	6
2002	13	22	10	9	3
2001	18	32	7	22	3
Total	71	140	59	58	23

OUTCOME OF CASES DISPOSED OF BY OFFENCE

Offence	Convicted	Struck out discharged/nolle prosequi/acquitted
Membership of an unlawful organisation	5	4
Possession of an explosive substance	4	0
Possession of an explosive device	2	0
Possession of ammunition	3	0

CIRCUIT CRIMINAL COURT

DUBLIN

CASES DISPOSED OF

	Road traffic	Drug offences	Sexual offences	Firearms offences	Larceny/ Fraud/ Robbery	Assault	Child abuse	Man-slaughter	Other	Total
Defendants	95	215	36	69	431	225	2	1	140	1,214
Defendants pleading guilty	87	199	22	60	394	167	1	1	104	1,035

OUTCOME OF TRIALS

	Road traffic	Drug offences	Sexual offences	Firearms offences	Larceny/ Fraud/ Robbery	Assault	Child abuse	Man-slaughter	Other	Total
Convicted	2	9	3	3	8	20	1	0	20	66
Acquitted	3	3	8	4	13	25	0	0	15	71
Nolle prosequi	3	4	3	2	16	13	0	0	1	42

SENTENCES (ALL CASES)

	Road traffic	Drug offences	Sexual offences	Firearms offences	Larceny/ Fraud/ Robbery	Assault	Child abuse	Man-slaughter	Other	Total
Community Service	7	25	0	2	15	14	0	0	8	71
Suspended sentence	36	127	13	38	202	108	0	0	72	596
Fine	6	4	0	0	4	2	0	0	16	32
Imprisonment up to 2 years	31	45	10	23	157	65	0	0	31	362
Over 2 years to 5 years	21	53	8	21	124	41	0	0	26	294
Over 5 years to 10 years	0	18	2	2	10	8	0	1	3	44
Over 10 years	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Other	28	1	2	0	14	20	2	0	8	75

PROVINCIAL

CASES DISPOSED OF

	Road traffic	Drug offences	Sexual offences	Firearms offences	Larceny/ Fraud/ Robbery	Assault	Child abuse	Man-slaughter	Other	Total
Defendants	79	197	70	59	345	407	5	4	186	1,352
Defendants pleading guilty	63	177	46	44	267	284	5	0	118	1,004

OUTCOME OF TRIALS

	Road traffic	Drug offences	Sexual offences	Firearms offences	Larceny/ Fraud/ Robbery	Assault	Child abuse	Man-slaughter	Other	Total
Convicted	6	3	6	3	16	39	0	1	13	87
Acquitted	7	3	7	7	28	58	0	3	17	130
Nolle prosequi	3	14	11	5	34	26	0	0	38	131

SENTENCES IMPOSED (ALL CASES)

	Road traffic	Drug offences	Sexual offences	Firearms offences	Larceny/ Fraud/ Robbery	Assault	Child abuse	Man-slaughter	Other	Total
Community Service	1	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	3	11
Suspended sentence	22	77	22	18	100	173	3	4	38	457
Fine	9	2	1	2	5	6	0	0	40	65
Imprisonment up to 2 years	18	24	11	8	65	58	0	0	15	199
Over 2 years to 5 years	20	44	11	14	88	69	6	0	20	272
Over 5 years to 10 years	1	16	7	6	14	4	0	0	2	50
Over 10 years	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Other	12	7	8	3	27	27	1	0	19	104

DISTRICT COURT

See also appendix III.

CASES DISPOSED OF

	2006	2005
Summary cases	329,775	302,134
Indictable cases dealt with summarily	48,272	41,374

ALL CASES DISPOSED OF

Public order/assault	38,700
Drugs	8,842
Larceny	24,463
Road traffic offences	224,848
Sexual offences	415
Other *	80,779
Total	378,047

* Other includes offences such as criminal damage, breach of bail, litter offences, no television licence, street trading and offences prosecuted by Government Departments and other State agencies such as the Health and Safety Authority.

SUMMARY CASES DISPOSED OF

Public Order/Assault	36,601
Drugs	497
Road Traffic Offences	222,376
Sexual Offences	158
Other*	70,143
Total	329,775

OUTCOMES OF SUMMARY CASES DISPOSED OF

Imprisonment/Detention	11,462
Fines	95,913
Community Service	1,389
Probation	17,216
Struck Out	121,871
Dismiss	12,727
Taken into consideration**	61,968
Adjourn generally and other	6,082
Peace Bond	1,147
Total	329,775

** The Criminal Justice Act, 1951 section 8 provides for the making of such an order in the following circumstances:

1. Where a person, on being convicted of an offence, admits himself guilty of any other offence and asks to have it taken into consideration in awarding punishment, the Court may take it into consideration accordingly.
2. If the Court takes an offence into consideration, a note of that fact shall be made and filed with the record of the sentence, and the accused shall not be prosecuted for that offence, unless his conviction is reversed on appeal.

INDICTABLE CASES DISPOSED OF

Public Order/Assault	2,146
Drugs	8,357
Larceny	24,430
Road Traffic Offences	2,281
Sexual Offences	259
Other*	10,799
Total	48,272

The maximum sentence that can be imposed by the District Court in respect of any offence is 12 months. The cumulative duration in respect of consecutive sentences cannot exceed two years.

* Other includes offences such as criminal damage, breach of bail, litter offences, no television licence, street trading and offences prosecuted by Government Departments and other State agencies such as the Health and Safety Authority.

** The Criminal Justice Act, 1951 section 8 provides for the making of such an order in the following circumstances:

1. Where a person, on being convicted of an offence, admits himself guilty of any other offence and asks to have it taken into consideration in awarding punishment, the Court may take it into consideration accordingly.
2. If the Court takes an offence into consideration, a note of that fact shall be made and filed with the record of the sentence, and the accused shall not be prosecuted for that offence, unless his conviction is reversed on appeal.

OUTCOMES OF INDICTABLE CASES DISPOSED OF

Imprisonment/Detention	9,556
Fines	6,802
Community Service	1,103
Probation	7,267
Struck Out	10,827
Dismiss	1,180
Taken into consideration**	9,447
Adjourn generally and other	1,340
Peace Bond	750
Total	48,272

The maximum fine the District Court can impose depends on the offence. In general, the maximum fine which the District Court can impose in respect of any one offence is €3,000.

JUVENILE CRIME

Age of child*	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Not recorded	Total
Struck Out	1	7	21	45	84	149	159	99	565
No Order	0	0	5	10	27	40	46	3	131
Probation	0	0	6	15	52	72	85	74	304
Withdrawn	1	2	6	4	10	25	30	56	134
Dismissed	0	4	3	13	23	42	48	25	158
Detention	0	0	4	24	62	117	118	74	399
Returned to higher court for trial	0	0	1	8	14	31	41	26	121
Fine	0	0	0	5	6	27	23	25	86
Peace bond	0	0	0	4	6	23	16	13	62
Community service	0	0	0	0	3	12	22	23	60
Poor box	0	0	0	0	1	4	5	0	10
Disqualified from driving	0	0	0	2	12	18	25	33	90
Dismissed under the Probation Act	0	2	8	15	25	46	43	77	216
Other	1	0	0	2	4	14	4	24	50
Total	3	15	55	147	329	620	665	552	2,386

* as at 31st December 2006



Section 3

CIVIL

Section 3 – Civil

HIGH COURT

PERSONAL INJURY

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
Assault Cases	292	214
Medical Negligence Cases	334	312
Personal Injury Summonses	2,673	746
Personal Injury Summonses (Fatal actions)	3	9
Section 12 PIAB Act	70	29

ANALYSIS OF CASES SET DOWN FOR TRIAL

Dublin	2006	2005
On hand at 01/01	8,754	5,897
Received	2,837	5,476
Disposed of	2,448	2,619
On hand at 31/12	9,143	8,754

Dundalk	2006	2005
On hand at 01/01	542	499
Received	363	408
Disposed of	453	365
On hand at 31/12	452	542

Galway	2006	2005
On hand at 01/01	498	453
Received	358	511
Disposed of	656	466
On hand at 31/12	200	498

Cork	2006	2005
On hand at 01/01	681	644
Received	409	543
Disposed of	556	506
On hand at 31/12	534	681

Limerick	2006	2005
On hand at 01/01	923	662
Received	536	757
Disposed of	665	496
On hand at 31/12	794	923

Sligo	2006	2005
On hand at 01/01	388	255
Received	190	362
Disposed of	328	229
On hand at 31/12	250	388

Waterford	2006	2005
On hand at 01/01	274	248
Received	148	231
Disposed of	183	205
On hand at 31/12	239	274

Kilkenny	2006	2005
On hand at 01/01	167	113
Received	65	137
Disposed of	100	83
On hand at 31/12	132	167

TOTAL PERSONAL AND FATAL INJURIES CASES

	2006	2005
On hand at 01/01	12,227	8,667
Received	4,906	8,425
Disposed of	5,389	4,969
On hand at 31/12	11,744	12,227

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
Assessment of damages	119	138
Dismiss	69	86
Liability in issue	85	107
Settled at hearing	259	283
Listed but settled before hearing	2,781	2,941
Fatal settled	118	144
Minor settled	273	275
Assessment of damages settled	61	53

Awards were made in 176 personal injury cases in the High Court in 2006. Judgment was either on consent or followed a hearing or disclosed terms of consent. The highest award was €3,350,000.00 and the lowest award was €2,500.00. The total amount awarded in all cases was €22,981,695.00.

ANALYSIS OF AWARDS MADE

Amount	Number of cases
€0 to €37,999	66
€38,000 to €99,999	66
€100,000 to €199,999	16
€200,000 to €999,999	25
€1m +	3
TOTAL	176

CIRCUIT COURT

PERSONAL INJURY

Awards were made or approved in 1,102 personal injury cases. The highest amount awarded was €59,551.96, the lowest €176.00. The total amount awarded in all cases was €14,792,242.26.

ANALYSIS OF AWARDS MADE

Amount	Number of cases
€30,000 +	53
€20,000 to €29,999	175
€10,000 to €19,999	429
€0 to €9,999	445

AWARDS MADE BY THE COURT OR SETTLEMENTS RULED

County	Number of cases
Carlow	13
Cavan	17
Clare	20
Cork	106
Donegal	35
Dublin	512
Galway	35
Kerry	43
Kildare	2
Kilkenny	14
Laois	6
Leitrim	6

Limerick	46
Longford	4
Louth	45
Mayo	31
Meath	28
Monaghan	19
Offaly	5
Roscommon	6
Sligo	2
Tipperary	58
Waterford	17
Westmeath	7
Wexford	20
Wicklow	5
TOTAL	1,102

DUBLIN CIRCUIT COURT

CASES ISSUED

1,298

CASES DISPOSED OF

Manner in which cases disposed of	
Settled in court	1,426
Heard and dealt with by court	372
Adjourned generally	477
Total	2,275

OUTCOME OF CASES DISPOSED OF

Plaintiff awarded compensation	448
Order made against defendant	946
Dismissed or struck out	404
Adjourned generally	477
Total	2,275

HIGH COURT

CIRCUIT COURT APPEALS

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
Northern Circuit	9	14
Southern Circuit	22	52
Eastern Circuit	12	22
Western Circuit	11	16
Midland Circuit	12	9
Dublin Circuit	137	212
South Western Circuit	3	1
Applications to extend time to Appeal	48	72
Total (Excl. High Court on Circuit)	254	398

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
Circuit Appeal Final	162	175
Stay Circuit Court Order	10	3
Extend time to Appeal	36	21

CHANCERY MATTERS

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
Restoration of Company to Register	203	182
Winding Up Company	98	106
Examinership	8	5
Section 205 Petitions	22	16
Section 106	7	9
Section 150 Companies Acts *	50	70
Section 160	21	31
Other Applications pursuant to Companies Acts	53	68

* See also page 118.

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
Restore of Company to Register	195	178
Wind Up Company	32	48
Examiner Appointed	5	7
Interim Examiner Appointed	5	6
Section 106	6	8
Section 150 Granted *	76	106
Section 150 Refused *	17	16
Section 160 Granted	8	6
Section 160 Refused	2	0
Other Companies Acts Orders	245	173
Chancery Action Hearing Final	54	63
Chancery Action Settled Final	163	162
Chancery Action Settled at Hearing Final	50	25
Chancery Special Summons Final	102	64
Injunctions (interim)	145	157
Injunctions (interlocutory)	54	75
Mortgage Suit (Well charging Order)	36	41
Possession Orders	61	60
Other Chancery Orders	582	508

* See also page 118.

REGULATION OF PROFESSIONS

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
Dentists Acts	1	1
Medical Council Matters	29	24
Nurses Acts	19	19
Solicitors Matters	4	1

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
Medical Council Matters Interim	10	14
Medical Council Matters Final	16	18
Nurses Acts Interim	2	7
Nurses Acts Interim	19	15

ACTIONS TO RECOVER DEBT

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
European Enforcement Order	2	0
Examination Of Debtors	12	2
Foreign Judgments	36	38
Revenue Summons	901	704
Summary Summons	1,894	1,782

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
Foreign Judgments	25	38
Liberty to enter final judgment	267	291
Court judgment on foot of summary proceedings	45	35
Appoint receiver (equitable execution)	10	8
Garnishee conditional Order	19	17
Garnishee Final Order	11	7

JUDICIAL REVIEW

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
Asylum	909	758
Certiorari	289	917*
Certiorari & Declaration	67	69
Injunction	53	39
Mandamus	90	110
Planning	50	47
Prohibition	74	77
Public Procurement	3	3

* Due to improvements in categorisation in 2006, Asylum and Planning cases previously included under Certiorari, Mandamus, Prohibition and Certiorari and Declaration are now categorised separately.

ORDERS MADE

Asylum	2006	2005
Leave to apply Granted	139	111
Leave to apply Refused	44	51
Final Order Granted	21	11
Final Order Refused	24	16
Miscellaneous Interim Order	147	152
Final Order (Settled)	358	295

Certiorari/Mandamus	2006	2005
Certiorari Granted	128	109
Mandamus Granted	10	2

Planning	2006	2005
Leave to Apply Granted	16	23
Leave to Apply Refused	2	7
Injunction Final	1	2
Mandamus Final	1	0
Refused Final	12	12
Strike Out Final	1	2

Prohibition	2006	2005
Granted	23	13
Leave to Apply Granted	561	494
Leave to Apply Refused	56	144
Interim Order	187	325
Refused Final	70	88
Strike Out Final	123	89

NON-JURY MATTERS

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
Breach of Contract	613	578
Nuisance	16	5
Negligence	300	410
Probate	27	16

CASES CERTIFIED FOR HEARING

Year	On hand 01/01	Received	Disposed of	On hand 31/12
2006	328	233	194	367
2005	232	266	170	328

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
Final Order	11	19
Settled at hearing	6	7
Settled	51	41

JURY MATTERS

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
Defamation	25	33
False Imprisonment	18	15
Libel	106	88
Slander	8	10

CASES SET DOWN FOR HEARING

Year	On hand 01/01	Received	Disposed of	On hand 31/12
2006	80	84	57	107
2005	52	63	35	80

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
Final Order	6	4
Settled	21	12

COMMERCIAL COURT

On hand at 01/01	16
Admitted to list	262
Refused entry to list	47
Disposed of	189
Outstanding at 31/12	73

ANALYSIS OF CASES DISPOSED OF

Interim motion	12
Settled after entry	18
Settled after directions hearing	52
Settled after hearing date set	28
Settled after pre-trial conference	4
Settled at hearing	36
Judgment after full hearing	39

STATESIDE MATTERS

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
Case Stated from District Court	33	41
Habeas Corpus Applications	179	251

ORDERS MADE

Case Stated from District Court	27
Case Stated Revenue	3
Habeas Corpus Conditional Ex Parte	131
Habeas Corpus Ex Parte Refused	24
Habeas Corpus Refuse Final	39
Habeas Corpus Release Final	53

ADMIRALTY

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
	11	6

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
Interim	3	14
Final	6	3

EUROPEAN ARREST WARRANTS

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
	171	61

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
Final Order	37	12
Final Order (Consent)	30	8
Refused	11	5
Remand in Custody	31	9
Warrant to Arrest	18	21
Bail	37	2
Endorse Warrant	99	18
Outgoing	40	17
Miscellaneous	20	15

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
	5	5

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
Information Commissioner Appeal Allowed	0	0
Information Commissioner Appeal Refused	2	0

GARDA COMPENSATION

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
	171	223

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
	150	153

HEPATITIS C APPEALS

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
	18	39

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
	36	28

SECTION 160 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
	16	21

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
Interim Order	9	10
Final Order	7	14

CRIMINAL ASSETS BUREAU MATTERS

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
	15	13

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
Section 2 (Interim)	5	7
Section 3 (Interlocutory)	4	6
Section 7 (Receiver)	5	10
Miscellaneous	104	74

OTHER CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
Applications to take evidence	14	9
Criminal Justice Act applications	4	8
Extradition	1	8
Minor Cases	25	29
State Property Act	1	-
Transfer of Prisoners	20	4
Waste Management Acts	4	2
Water Pollution Acts	2	0
Arbitration Matters	30	32
Appeal from Determination of Pension Ombudsman	4	N/A
Conversion	5	11
Declarations	662	844

	2006	2005
Employment Equality Act Applications	3	2
European Convention on Human Rights	4	1
Forfeiture	4	3
Injunctions	338	478*
Mortgage Suit	74	65
Partition Acts	3	3
Patents Acts	10	5
Possession Orders	237	140
Rescission	24	20
Specific Performance	259	239
Succession	62	56
Trade Marks Act	3	2
Trespass	25	21
Trustee Matters	19	9
Vendor & Purchaser	8	9

* Includes injunctions previously categorised as Judicial Review injunctions

MASTERS ORDERS

	2006	2005
Adopt from Circuit Court	637	612
Adjourn to Plenary Hearing	74	58
Amend Summons	165	144
Discovery	1,220	1,292
Dismiss Plaintiff's Claim	121	120
Extend Time for Discovery	108	-
Extend time for delivery of Statement of Claim	117	-
Join a Co-Defendant	141	383
Payment out of funds in Court	65	93
Remit to Circuit Court	264	271
Renew Summons	20	79
Refuse Application	227	229
Strike Out Motion with Costs	943	1,039
Other Masters Orders	742	1,083
Total	4,844	5,403

INTERIM PAYMENT OUT OF REDRESS BOARD AWARD

	2006	2005
	118	14

FILINGS

	2006	2005
Admit (Notice to)	38	26
Affidavit	32,938	31,169
Answer	1	1
Affidavit of Service	3,913	3,602
Notice of Appeal	257	255
Appearance	8,545	11,176
Books of Appeal	194	251
CIR (community insolvency regulations)	3	2
Cancel Discontinuance	9	5
Notice of Indemnity & Contribution	461	536
Cert of Readiness	369	354
Discontinuance	2,032	1,741
Fifa	914	1,029
Judgment in Default of appearance	576	724
Judgment Mortgage Affidavit	402	447
Judgment on foot of Master's Order	157	184
Lis Pendens	127	119
Master's Motion	4,741	5,727
Notice to Attorney General	8	3
Cert of No Appearance	632	753
Notice to Human Rights Commission	2	4
Notice of Intention to proceed	3,044	2,561
Notice of Appointment of Solicitor	76	83
Notice of Change of Solicitor	2,740	3,942

	2006	2005
Notice of Discharge of Solicitor	42	25
Notice of Motion (Court)	11,830	11,975
Notice to cross examine	104	96
Notice to produce	1,476	1,772
Notice to trustees	42	44
Statement of Opposition	527	348
Particulars	3	4
Possession order	32	23
Renew fīa	9	3
Register judgment (High Court)	218	225
Reply to Notice for Particulars	0	0
S.5 Cert ¹ (judicial separation)	28	40
S.6 Cert (judicial separation)	27	26
S. 6 Cert ² (divorce)	16	8
S. 7 Cert (divorce)	14	10
Satisfaction (High Court judgment)	39	44
Setting Down	5,443	6,890
Statement of claim	215	282
Statement of Affairs	38	52
Statement to ground judicial review application	1,625	1,491
Submissions	390	309
Third party notice	185	240
Vacate Lis Pendens	31	30
Withdraw case by letters	226	263
TOTAL	84,760	100,259

1 These certificates are required under the Judicial Separation and Family Law Reform Act 1989 to show that the parties have been made aware of the possibility of mediation

2 These certificates are required under the Family Law Divorce Act 1996 to show that the parties have been made aware of the possibility of mediation

OTHER CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITY

Revenue Case Stated	4
Lis Pendens (Circuit)	36
Subpoenas Issued	5,198
Notice As To Stock	44
Withdrawal of Notice as to Stock	5
Unclaimed Dividends	9
Bills of sale/Chattel Mortgage	101
Satisfaction of Bill of Sale	2
Bonds	1
Vacate of Bonds	14
Deed Polls (Enrolled only)	379
Power of Attorney Filed	11

JUDGMENTS REGISTERED

High	314
Circuit	1,103
District	1,543
Total	2,960

JUDGMENTS SATISFIED

District	94
Circuit	111
High	62
Total	267

ANALYSIS OF WRITTEN JUDGMENTS*

Principal cause of action	Number of judgments
Personal injury	37
Chancery (excluding Companies Acts and commercial cases)	73
Companies Acts	14
Commercial List	24
Competition	2
European Arrest Warrant	27
Hague Luxembourg Convention	12
Proceeds of Crime Act (CAB)	6
Non-jury (negligence, breach of contract)	22
Planning Act matters	15
Family Law (judicial separation)	3
Assault	3
Libel	1
Judicial Review (excluding asylum, prohibition and planning)	41
Judicial Review (asylum)	47
Judicial Review (prohibition)	21
Judicial Review (planning)	13
Planning (section 60 Planning & Development Act, 2000)	4
Revenue	2
Cases Stated	14
Arbitration	2

Principal cause of action	Number of judgments
Debt	6
Social Welfare Acts	1
Habeas Corpus / Article 40 Constitution	8
Hepatitis C Appeals	1
Freedom of Information Act	2

* figures do not include all judgments delivered

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SOLICITOR FOR MINORS AND WARDS OF COURT

	2006	2005
Wardship cases	467	463
Sub cases	130	149

FUNDS HELD

At December 31st 2006, the balance in the Committee Account (on behalf of Wards and Minors) amounted to €861,352.44.

REASON FOR PERSONS ADMITTED TO WARDSHIP

Acquired Brain Injury	52
Elderly Mental Infirm	154
Learning or Intellectual Disability	98
Minor	10
Pending cases	6
Psychiatric Illness	145
Residential Abuse	2
Total	467

OFFICE OF WARDS OF COURT

	2006	2005
Wardship cases	2,663	2,059
Applications awaiting hearing	499	531
Total	3,162	2,590

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
Inquiry orders	206	258
Declaration orders	204	215
Declaration orders (minors)	27	15
Dismissal orders	158	195
Orders (other)	593	509

ENDURING POWERS OF ATTORNEY

	2006	2005
Registered	168	116

PROBATE OFFICE

Principal Registry	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	5,585	5,642
Intestacies	1,835	2,031
Personal applicants (included in above)	1,199	1,365
Caveats	628	540
Appearances	43	39
Other forms of proceedings: citations	27	27
Warnings	57	73

PROBATES AND ADMINISTRATIONS GRANTED

	2006	2005
On foot of court action	36	101
In the registry without decree or order of the court	7,420	7,673
Revocation of probate or administration	16	66

FEES GENERATED BY OFFICE

	2006	2005
	(€)	(€)
Total amount of fees received	2,357,164	2,146,985
Fees on personal applications	*540,622	*515,984

* included in total figure

LOCAL REGISTRIES

Castlebar	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	387	422
Intestacies	151	195

Cavan	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	160	154
Intestacies	79	116

Clonmel	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	487	508
Intestacies	154	167

Cork	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	1,041	893
Intestacies	320	304

Dundalk	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	344	306
Intestacies	134	160

Galway	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	577	697
Intestacies	265	297

Kilkenny	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	359	371
Intestacies	140	152

Letterkenny	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	177	180
Intestacies	98	104

Limerick	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	648	685
Intestacies	225	280

Mullingar	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	265	281
Intestacies	118	104

Sligo	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	246	231
Intestacies	104	101

Tralee	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	368	383
Intestacies	167	148

Waterford	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	259	292
Intestacies	95	84

Wexford	2006	2005
Probates (and administrations with wills annexed)	336	283
Intestacies	113	100

PROBATES (AND ADMINISTRATIONS WITH WILLS ANNEXED)

	2006	2005
Dublin	5,585	5,642
Local registries	5,653	5,686
Total	11,238	11,328

INTESTACIES (NO VALID WILL)

	2006	2005
Dublin	1,835	2,031
Local registries	2,163	2,312
Total	3,998	4,343

EXAMINERS OFFICE

Cases Completed	2006	2005
Liquidations	100	47
Mortgage suits	15	10

Number of sittings	2006	2005
Administration suits	22	11
Next of kin inquiries	16	4

General	2006	2005
Examiners' Certificates filed	245	177

While no Administration Suit was completed in 2006, the increase in the number of sittings is an indication that a number of old and complex cases were actively pursued. It is anticipated that some of these cases will be the subject of court applications in 2007.

**COURT PROCEEDINGS, EXAMINER'S COURT
ORDERS MADE**

	2006	2005
Liquidations	283	275
Mortgage suits	37	18

SECTION 150 COMPANIES ACT, 1990

	2006	2005
Motions issued	22	22
Dealt with	23	33

**RESTRICTION ORDERS IN COURT
LIQUIDATIONS**

Year	Directors restricted	Directors not restricted	Total number of directors dealt with
2006	32	17	49
2005	38	22	60

**OFFICE OF THE OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE IN
BANKRUPTCY**

Year	On hand 01/01 Received	New Cases	Disposed of	On hand 31/12
Bankruptcies	474	9	13	470
Arrangements	23	1	1	23

ANALYSIS OF CASES DISPOSED OF

Annulled	4
Discharged	9
Order of Protection lifted in Arrangement	1

ANALYSIS OF BANKRUPTCIES DISCHARGED

Section 41*	5
Section 85(3)(a)(1)**	2
Section 85(4)(c)***	2

* Section 41 - An offer of composition.

** Section 85(3)(a)(1) - Payment of 100% dividend.

*** Section 85(4)(c) - 12 year rule and all assets realised.

ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS MADE

Amount of Dividend/ Composition paid out	€443,190.74*
Creditors paid	101

* This figure is comprised of:

- Bankruptcies where Discharge Orders were made (9 in total)
- An Interim payment made in March and
- A Dividend paid in December '06 resulting in a discharge in January '07.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (PERSONAL INSOLVENCY) REGULATIONS 2002

Entries on 01/01	8
Entries 01/01 - 31/12	4
Entries on 31/12	12*

* This figure comprises entries from the following countries: Northern Ireland (2); England (5); United Kingdom (4); Germany (1).

OFFICE OF THE TAXING MASTER

	2006	2005
Bills certified	486	525
Items certified	53,797	55,228
Costs claimed	€41,218,047.94	€28,292,536.00
Costs allowed	€30,490,854.52	€21,873,284.00
Fees (duty)	€1,327,594.48	€1,284,672.82
Duty on summonses	€141,460.00	€138,930.00

CIRCUIT COURT

CIVIL BUSINESS DISPOSED OF

	Notices of Trial	Motions	Civil appeals	Liquor licences granted
2006	8,168	18,425	334	491
2005	12,262	21,497	403	475

PRE-HEARING ACTIVITY

	2006	2005
Dealt with by county registrars	10,948	16,801
Dealt with by court	2,718	4,696

CASES DISPOSED OF

	2006	2005
Settled	4,089	6,197
Dealt with by county registrar	431	570
Dealt with by court	3,450	5,254
Adjourned with liberty to re-enter	198	241

JUDGMENTS MARKED IN THE OFFICE

2006	7,989
2005	8,170

CASES ISSUED

County	2006	2005
Carlow	330	300
Cavan	357	262
Clare	509	499
Cork	3,071	2,535
Donegal	669	583
Dublin *	8,629	7,467
Galway	1,350	1,200
Kerry	757	700
Kildare	1,063	853
Kilkenny	447	351
Laois	286	258
Leitrim	154	107
Limerick	1,212	952
Longford	197	183
Louth	791	597
Mayo	812	567
Meath	833	739
Monaghan	363	332
Offaly	345	281
Roscommon	304	234
Sligo	299	243
Tipperary	969	899
Waterford	793	730
Westmeath	516	432
Wexford	811	766
Wicklow	636	622
Total	26,503	22,692

* Additional information about cases dealt with in Dublin is on page 121.

DUBLIN CIRCUIT COURT

(For information on personal injury cases, see page 104)

CASES ISSUED

	Testamentary	Employment Law	Ordinary civil bill (including breach of contract and debt)	Landlord and Tenant (including *PRTB)	Equity	Other	Total
	28	93	6,043	384	480	303	7,331

* PRTB = Private Residential Tenancies Board

NOTICE OF TRIALS DISPOSED OF

Manner in which cases disposed of	Testamentary	Employment Law	Ordinary civil bill (including breach of contract and debt)	Landlord and Tenant (including *PRTB)	Equity	Other	Total
Settled in court	6	8	250	48	76	119	507
Heard and dealt with by court	4	3	64	15	23	41	150
Adjourned generally	4	8	61	8	15	154	250
Total	14	19	375	71	114	314	907

* PRTB = Private Residential Tenancies Board

Outcome of cases disposed of	Testamentary	Employment Law	Ordinary civil bill (including breach of contract and debt)	Landlord and Tenant (including *PRTB)	Equity	Other	Total
Plaintiff awarded compensation	0	0	75	4	8	31	118
Order made against defendant	9	8	170	45	67	102	401
Dismissed or struck out	1	3	69	14	24	27	138
Total	10	11	314	63	99	160	657

* PRTB = Private Residential Tenancies Board

MOTIONS DEALT WITH BY COUNTY REGISTRAR

Discovery	Applications to transfer to the High Court	Sub service	Judgment	Extension of time	Join parties	Other	Total
522	218	508	1,230	47	209	985	3,719

DISTRICT COURT

APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH

Ejectment Proceedings	152
Summary Judgment	20,391
Small Claims	2,877
Ordinary Civil Process	6,415
Summons of a civil nature	7,394
Other	358
Instalment orders	9,325
Committal orders	5,930
Total	52,842

SMALL CLAIMS PROCEDURE

Type of applications received	2006	2005
Holidays	393	341
Professional services	148	101
Dry cleaners	105	135
Building	105	115
Damage to private property	158	136
Key money	41	75
Electrical goods	309	219
Audio/computer	225	153
Clothing	93	122
Shoes	70	57
Furniture	160	207
Carpets/flooring	88	72
Doors/roofs	73	60
Cars	207	275
Other	815	637
Total	2,990	2,705

Claims disposed of	2006	2005
Cases not covered by procedure	44	56
Cases not proceeded with	400	303
Decrees by default	377	310
Settled by Registrar	1,326	1,468
Referred to court	730	560
Total	2,877	2,697

Cases adjudicated by court	2006	2005
Decrees granted	377	336
Cases dismissed	101	76
Cases struck out/withdrawn	252	148
Total	730	560

The District Court deals with applications under the Environmental Protection Act, 1992 for orders in connection with the curtailment or abatement of noise.

APPLICATIONS UNDER SECTION 107 AND SECTION 108 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1992

Section 107	2006	2005
Applications received	11	13
Successful applications	6	12

Section 108	2006	2005
Applications received	96	36
Successful applications	36	26

Section 4 FAMILY

Section 4 - Family law

DIVORCE, JUDICIAL SEPARATION AND NULLITY

CHANGING TRENDS: APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

	Divorce		Judicial separation		Nullity	
	High	Circuit	High	Circuit	High	Circuit
2006	39	3,986	50	1,789	1	60
2005	30	4,096	49	1,658	1	50
2004	34	3,880	48	1,654	0	51
2003	42	3,733	53	1,802	1	92
2002	33	3,912	59	1,871	2	52
2001	31	3,459	76	1,845	8	109
2000	39	3,339	76	1,592	8	84

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

	2006		2005	
	High	Circuit	High	Circuit
Divorce	39	3,986	30	4,096
Judicial separation	50	1,789	49	1,658
Nullity	1	60	1	50

CHANGING TRENDS: ORDERS GRANTED

	Divorce		Judicial separation		Nullity	
	High	Circuit	High	Circuit	High	Circuit
2006	47	3,420	27	1,072	0	25
2005	20	3,391	23	950	6	37
2004	42	3,305	42	1,216	5	20
2003	41	2,929	26	1,206	4	33
2002	20	2,571	28	940	1	40
2001	20	2,817	27	1,018	4	59
2000	30	2,710	27	998	5	47

ORDERS GRANTED

	2006		2005	
	High	Circuit	High	Circuit
Divorce	47	3,420	20	3,391
Judicial separation	27	1,072	23	950
Nullity	0	25	6	37

HIGH COURT

While the High Court and the Circuit Court have concurrent jurisdiction in family law matters, there is a right of appeal from the Circuit to the High Court in family law cases.

OTHER FAMILY LAW

CASES ISSUED

	2006	2005
Adoption	24	8
Family Law Appeals	89	82
Guardianship	4	6
Hague Luxembourg Convention Applications	46	31
Maintenance	2	0

ORDERS MADE

	2006	2005
Adoption Final	9	10
Family Law Appeals	47	49
Hague Luxembourg Convention interim	90	64
Hague Luxembourg Convention Remain Final Consent	29	8
Hague Luxembourg Convention Remain Final Court	0	1
Hague Luxembourg Convention Return Final Consent	12	10
Hague Luxembourg Convention Return Final Court	3	1
Hague Luxembourg Convention Assess Child	2	-
Maintenance	1	9
Interim Access	14	17
Other Family Orders	247	180

CIRCUIT COURT

See also appendix II.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

	2006	2005
Divorce	3,986	4,096
Judicial separation	1,789	1,658
Nullity	60	50
Section 33 Family Law Act, 1995	903	923
Family law appeals	610	561

Section 33 of the Family Law Act, 1995 allows the court dispense with the necessity to give three months notice of intention to marry and/or allow people under the age of eighteen to marry.

APPLICATIONS DISPOSED OF IN 2006

	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn, struck out, adjourned generally
Divorce	3,420	3	30
Judicial separation	1,072	0	35
Nullity	25	0	4
Section 33	836	29	8

APPLICATIONS DISPOSED OF IN 2005

	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn, struck out, adjourned generally
Divorce	3,391	5	43
Judicial separation	950	0	43
Nullity	37	1	1
Section 33	870	18	8

DISTRICT COURT

2006

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, 1996

	Applications	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn/ struck out
Barring orders	3,132	1,357	93	1,682
Safety orders	3,050	1,221	103	1,726
Protection orders	3,137	2,845	99	193
Interim barring orders	605	544	26	35

2006

PROTECTION ORDER APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH (BY STATUS OF APPLICANT)

Applicant	Granted	Interim barring in lieu	Refused	Withdrawn/ struck out
Spouse	1,611	0	58	109
Common law	862	0	25	70
Parent	316	0	10	13
Other	50	0	4	0
Health Board	6	0	2	1
Total	2,845	0	99	193

2005

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, 1996

	Applications	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn/ struck out
Barring orders	3,183	1,265	100	1,818
Safety orders	2,866	1,037	115	1,714
Protection orders	2,850	2,622	71	157
Interim barring orders	622	550	34	38

2005

PROTECTION ORDER APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH (BY STATUS OF APPLICANT)

Applicant	Granted	Interim barring in lieu	Refused	Withdrawn/ struck out
Spouse	1,469	0	45	107
Common law	804	0	16	43
Parent	299	0	4	7
Other	46	0	5	0
Health Board	4	0	1	0
Total	2,622	0	71	157

2006

SAFETY ORDER APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH (BY STATUS OF APPLICANT)

Applicant	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn/ struck out
Spouse	693	38	981
Common law	404	8	469
Parent	102	45	223
Other	22	12	53
Health Board	0	0	0
Total	1,221	103	1,726

2005

SAFETY ORDER APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH (BY STATUS OF APPLICANT)

Applicant	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn/ struck out
Spouse	633	48	1,032
Common law	291	12	416
Parent	91	42	210
Other	22	12	55
Health Board	0	1	1
Total	1,037	115	1,714

2006

BARRING ORDER APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH (BY STATUS OF APPLICANT)

Applicant	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn/ struck out
Spouse	727	62	953
Common law	425	20	462
Parent	200	11	247
Other	5	0	16
Health Board	0	0	4
Total	1,357	93	1,682

2005

BARRING ORDER APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH (BY STATUS OF APPLICANT)

Applicant	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn/ struck out
Spouse	726	66	1,067
Common law	362	23	493
Parent	173	10	257
Other	0	1	0
Health Board	4	0	1
Total	1,265	100	1,818

2006

INTERIM BARRING ORDER APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH (BY STATUS OF APPLICANT)

Applicant	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn/ struck out
Spouse	298	17	14
Common law	157	2	11
Parent	86	6	3
Other	2	0	0
Health Board	1	0	0
Total	544	25	28

2005

INTERIM BARRING ORDER APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH (BY STATUS OF APPLICANT)

Applicant	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn/ struck out
Spouse	313	22	23
Common law	150	8	9
Parent	83	4	6
Other	3	0	0
Health Board	1	0	0
Total	550	34	38

CHANGING TRENDS

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Barring order applications	4,908	4,470	4,067	3,586	3,210	3,183	3,132
Barring orders granted	2,319	2,067	1,740	1,575	1,295	1,265	1,357
Protection order applications	4,381	4,263	3,677	3,109	3,054	2,850	3,137
Protection orders granted	3,467	3,711	3,248	2,814	2,810	2,622	2,845
Safety order applications	2,336	2,903	2,814	2,557	2,611	2,866	3,050
Safety orders granted	988	1,232	1,187	1,108	987	1,037	1,221
Interim barring order applications	506	1,159	852	629	698	622	605
Interim barring orders granted	415	1,007	706	531	604	550	544

* Some interim barring orders were granted on foot of applications for protection orders. Likewise some protection orders were granted on foot of interim barring orders

GUARDIANSHIP OF CHILDREN

2006

APPLICATIONS FOR CUSTODY AND ACCESS

	Applications dealt with	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn struck out
Custody and access	900	566	41	293
Custody only	846	446	37	363
Access only	3,281	2,441	79	761
Total	5,027	3,453	157	1,417

2006

APPLICATIONS FOR GUARDIANSHIP

	Applications dealt with	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn struck out
Non-marital fathers Section 6(a)	1,742	1,268	42	432

2006

MAINTENANCE

	Applications dealt with	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn struck out
Maintenance applications (married)	1,493	1,000	50	443
Maintenance applications (unmarried)	2,652	1,860	42	750
Maintenance Act 1994 applications	26	18	0	8
Maintenance Foreign Jurisdictions Act, 1974	36	31	2	3
Total	4,207	2,909	94	1,204

2005

APPLICATIONS FOR CUSTODY AND ACCESS

	Applications dealt with	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn struck out
Custody and access	829	540	42	247
Custody only	749	418	29	302
Access only	3,020	2,215	69	736
Total	4,598	3,173	140	1,285

2005

APPLICATIONS FOR GUARDIANSHIP

	Applications dealt with	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn struck out
Non-marital fathers Section 6(a)	1,734	1,266	48	420

2005

MAINTENANCE

	Applications dealt with	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn struck out
Maintenance applications (married)	1,566	1,070	37	459
Maintenance applications (unmarried)	2,562	1,816	38	708
Maintenance Act 1994 applications	7	4	0	3
Maintenance Foreign Jurisdictions Act, 1974	36	26	3	7
Total	4,171	2,916	78	1,177

CHILDCARE

SUPERVISION AND CARE ORDERS

Childcare cases involve applications by the Health Service Executive (HSE) in relation to care of children, mainly applications to have children placed in the care of or under the supervision of the HSE temporarily or permanently.

SUPERVISION AND CARE ORDERS GRANTED

	2006	2005
Supervision orders	520	372
Care orders	1,125	975

The court may also grant interim care orders.

Section 5 LICENSING

Section 5 - Licensing

CIRCUIT COURT

LIQUOR LICENCES GRANTED

	Pub	Hotel	Special restaurant cert	Club	Total
2006	322	98	51	20	491
2005	325	83	50	17	475

DISTRICT COURT

LICENSING APPLICATIONS DISPOSED OF

	2006	2005
Renewal of publican licences	1,111	1,403
Temporary transfer of licence	1,121	1,014
Annual dance licence	1,625	1,609
Temporary dance licence	388	328
Restaurant certificate	1,157	1,106
Special exemption orders	91,157	93,247
Lottery licence	1,265	1,285
Other	8,897	8,120
Total	106,721	108,112

Chapter 7
Financial statements

Expenditure and Income

	2006	2005
	€ '000	€ '000
CURRENT EXPENDITURE		
Salaries and Wages	49,744	46,917
Travel and Subsistence	3,818	3,744
Staff and judicial training	1,095	848
Stenography and other fees	4,410	2,976
Legal services	799	949
Postal services	1,057	951
Telecommunications	1,427	1,186
Office equipment and materials	1,310	1,258
Courthouse maintenance	11,135	8,673
Heat, light and fuel costs	2,041	1,846
Furniture and fittings	1,229	567
Leases	6,086	6,821
Consultancy (Non I.T related)	126	171
Incorporated Council of Law Reporting of Ireland	41	61
Incidental/ miscellaneous costs	3,116	2,327
Total Current Expenditure	87,434	79,295
Telecommunications systems	36	24
Computer systems	8,362	7,076
Courthouses and other buildings	21,623	18,773
Total Capital Expenditure	30,021	25,873
Total Expenditure	117,455	105,168
Income (Appropriations - in - Aid)		
Fees	32,688	30,000
Dormant Court Funds (Funds of Suitors)	-	9,300
Miscellaneous	878	1,035
Total Income	33,566	40,335
Net Expenditure	83,889	64,833

Statement on Internal Financial Controls

The following statement by the Chief Executive as Accounting Officer on the matter of internal financial controls was included with the 2006 Appropriation Accounts:

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SYSTEM OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL

As Accounting Officer I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by the Courts Service. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to me and my other obligations as Chief Executive Officer. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

The position in regard to the financial control environment, the framework of administrative procedures, management reporting and internal audit is as follows:

FINANCIAL CONTROL ENVIRONMENT

I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- ▣ financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability

- ▣ reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned
- ▣ formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action
- ▣ there is an audit committee to advise me in discharging my responsibility for the internal financial control system.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS AND MANAGEMENT REPORTING

I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- ▣ there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management
- ▣ there are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts
- ▣ a risk management system operates within the Courts Service
- ▣ there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems
- ▣ there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines.

INTERNAL AUDIT

I confirm that the Office* has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a charter which I have approved. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which the Service is exposed and its annual internal plans, approved by me, are based on this analysis. These plans aim to cover the key controls on a rolling basis over a reasonable period. The internal audit function is reviewed periodically by me and the Audit Committee. I have put procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.



PJ FITZPATRICK
Accounting Officer

* "Office" in this context means The Courts Service

Court Fees & Fines

FEES

The Service collects a range of fees on behalf of the Property Registration Authority and the Revenue Commissioners. The Property Registration Authority fees are in relation to the access to documents held locally in court offices. The fees collected on behalf of the Revenue Commissioners are excise duties due on certain applications to court and to the provision of copies of some of these documents. This is mainly in relation to licensing cases e.g. an application for a special licence.

	2006 (€000's)	2005 (€000's)
Revenue Commissioners	10,795	10,524
Retained by the Service	32,297	29,570
Property Registration Authority	70	65
Total	43,162	40,159

FINES

The Service collects fines imposed by the courts. In many cases, these fines are collected by the Service on behalf of other government agencies or public bodies e.g. fisheries fines are transferred to the Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources.

	2006 (€000's)	2005 (€000's)
Exchequer (Motor Fines)	13,418	7,526
Revenue Commissioners	2,482	1,890
Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources	310	199
Exchequer	7,171	5,102
Total	23,381	14,717

THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT OF THE COURTS OF JUSTICE

EXTRACT FROM THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2006

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	30/9/2006 €	30/9/2005 €
INVESTMENT ASSETS		
Investments	937,168,487	848,611,782
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	7,814,970	8,420,118
Bank	2,298,772	2,999,344
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	10,113,742	11,419,462
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	523,607	685,202
TOTAL LIABILITIES	523,607	685,202
NET CURRENT ASSETS	9,590,135	10,734,260
TOTAL NET ASSETS	946,758,622	859,346,042
Represented by:		
Funds held for beneficiaries at year end	946,758,622	859,346,042

THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT OF THE COURTS OF JUSTICE

EXTRACT FROM THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2006

Statement of Operations

	Year ended 30/9/2006 €	Year ended 30/9/2005 €
NET REALISED AND UNREALISED GAINS		
Net realised gains on investments disposed of during the year	5,718,120	6,858,336
Net unrealised gains on investments	30,604,979	62,625,311
Gains realised on transfer out during the year	1,521,579	4,869
NET REALISED AND UNREALISED GAINS		
Investment income	2,467,707	5,999,379
Expenses	40,312,385 (1,246,794)	75,487,895 (2,061,168)
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	39,065,591	73,426,727

THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT OF THE COURTS OF JUSTICE

EXTRACT FROM THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2006

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

	Year ended 30/9/2006 €	Year ended 30/9/2005 €
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS		
Net investment gains	1,220,913	3,938,211
Net realised gains on investments	5,718,120	6,858,336
Net unrealised gains on investments	30,604,979	62,625,311
Gains realised on transfers from funds	1,521,579	4,869
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	39,065,591	73,426,727
CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts	164,109,273	150,018,824
Disbursements	(115,762,284)	(119,392,014)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS	48,346,989	30,626,810
Increase in net assets	87,412,580	104,053,537
Net assets at beginning of year	859,346,042	755,292,505
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	946,758,622	859,346,042

Extracts from the Report and Financial Statements of the Office of the Accountant of the Courts of Justice for the year ended 30th September 2006 are included in this Report. The full Report and Financial Statements are available from the Office of the Accountant of the Courts of Justice, Phoenix House, 15/24 Phoenix Street North, Smithfield, Dublin 7. Telephone: 01-8886211 and on the website of the Service at www.courts.ie.

Poor Box Receipts

POOR BOX RECEIPTS THROUGH COURT OFFICES 2006

	Opening Balance 01/01	Receipts	Payments	Balance on Hand 31/12
	€	€	€	€
High Court	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Circuit Court	12,157.18	359.66	1,800.00	10,716.84
District Court	66,272.54	1,316,728.04	1,248,236.55	134,764.03
Total	78,429.72*	1,317,087.70	1,250,036.55	145,480.87

* The opening Balance at 01/01/06 was €9,660.27 less than the closing balance in the Annual Report for 2005 due to revised details provided by court offices.

POOR BOX RECEIPTS THROUGH COURT OFFICES 2005

	Opening Balance 01/01	Receipts	Payments	Balance on Hand 31/12
	€	€	€	€
High Court	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Circuit Court	12,655.95	0.00	3,000.00	9,655.95
District Court	152,812.19	947,809.33	1,022,187.48	78,434.04
Total	165,468.14*	947,809.33	1,025,187.48	88,089.99

* The opening balance at 01/01/05 was €26,324.50 more than the closing balance in the Annual Report for 2004 due to revised details provided by court offices.

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997

The following information is provided in accordance with the Act within the guidelines issued by the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment.

The Service has procedures in place to ensure that all invoices are paid within the time limits identified on these invoices or, if no time limit is specified, within the statutory time limit. While the procedures have been designed to ensure compliance with the Act, they only provide reasonable, and not absolute assurance against material non compliance with the Act.

These procedures operate in the financial period under review and, in the case of late payments, the relevant suppliers were notified and the interest due was paid to them.

In accordance with the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997 the following information is provided in respect of the financial period ending December 31st 2006:

(A) PAYMENT PRACTICES

The Service makes payment to suppliers in accordance with the terms specified on the respective invoices or the conditions specified in individual contracts, if appropriate. Since 2002, the standard terms are 30 days.

(B) LATE PAYMENTS

Invoice Amount	No. of Invoices	Amount of Interest paid €
Under €100	625	10,033
Over €100	12	2,129
Total	637	12,162

Chapter 8

Report of the Rules Committees

SUPERIOR COURTS RULES COMMITTEE

The Superior Courts Rules Committee was established by Section 67 of the Courts of Justice Act, 1936 and reconstituted by Section 15 of the Courts of Justice Act, 1953. Under Section 68 of the 1936 Act the power to make, annul or alter rules of court is exercisable by the Committee with the concurrence of the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE AT YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2006

- ▣ The Chief Justice, the Hon. Mr. Justice John L. Murray (Chairperson)
- ▣ The President of the High Court, the Hon. Mr. Justice Richard Johnson (Vice Chairperson)
- ▣ The Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Hardiman, judge of the Supreme Court
- ▣ The Hon. Mr. Justice Liam McKechnie, judge of the High Court
- ▣ The Master of the High Court, Mr. Edmund W. Honohan S.C.
- ▣ Mr. Lyndon MacCann S.C., nominated by the Council of the Bar of Ireland
- ▣ Mr. Tony Hunt B.L., nominated by the Council of the Bar of Ireland
- ▣ Mr. Patrick Groarke, solicitor, nominated by the Council of the Law Society of Ireland
- ▣ Mr. Patrick O'Connor, solicitor, nominated by the Council of the Law Society of Ireland
- ▣ Mr. Matthew Feely, Office of the Attorney General - appointed to act in place of the Attorney General under Section 36(4) of the Courts and Court Officers Act. 2002
- ▣ Mr. Noel Rubotham, Director of Reform and Development, Courts Service, to whom membership has been delegated by the Chief Executive Officer under Section 30(2) of the Courts Service Act 1998
- ▣ Draftsperson - Mr. Seán Barton, McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors
- ▣ Secretary - Ms. Maeve Kane, Registrar of the Supreme Court

At year end there were two vacancies in the membership. The membership of the Hon. Mr Justice Brian McCracken, a nominee of the Chief Justice, ceased upon his retirement as a judge of the Supreme Court in July 2006. The Hon. Mr Justice Joseph Finnegan, former President of the High Court, ceased to be a member of the committee ex officio upon his appointment to the Supreme Court in December 2006.

The committee met on six occasions during 2006 and signed the following rules:-

Title	Date signed by Committee	S.I. number	Operative date
RSC (Arbitration) 2006	9th February 2006	109 of 2006	31st March 2006
RSC (Proceeds of Crime and Financing of Terrorism) 2006	30th March 2006	242 of 2006	5th June 2006
RSC (Mode of Address of Judges) 2006	5th April 2006	196 of 2006	25th April 2006
RSC (Taxi Regulations) 2006	25th May 2006	315 of 2006	19th June 2006 <i>(save for appeals under s. 35(7) which has yet to be commenced)</i>
RSC (Competition) 2006	13th July 2006	461 of 2006	26th September 2006
RSC (Mental Health Act 2001) 2006	26th October 2006	597 of 2006	3rd January 2007
RSC (Evidence) 2007	26th October 2006	13 of 2007	13th February 2007
RSC (Statutory Applications and Appeals) 2007	26th October 2006	14 of 2007	13th February 2007

During the year the committee also considered representations regarding the requirement for an affidavit of verification under Order 74 rule 130, the necessity for rules under the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act, 2006, proposed changes to the definition of 'qualified party' in Order 22 Rule 14, the form of affidavit of verification required under Order 1A rule 10 and the report of the Legal Costs Working Group.

At year end, draft rules in respect of the recommendations in Chapter 8 of the Legal Costs Working Group, section 19 of the Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2006 and the Criminal Justice Act 2006 were under consideration by the committee.

Maeve Kane
Secretary

CIRCUIT COURT RULES COMMITTEE

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COMMITTEE ARE:

- ▣ to consider legislative changes at domestic and EU level and to amend Circuit Court Rules on Practice and Procedure to take account of such changes, where appropriate
- ▣ to review and update as necessary, the consolidated Circuit Court Rules, 2001
- ▣ to consider issues relevant to the Rules raised by members of the Committee and other parties having an interest in the practice and procedure of the Circuit Court.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE AT YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2006:

- ▣ The Hon. Mr. Justice Matthew Deery, President of the Circuit Court (Chairperson)
- ▣ Her Honour Judge Katherine Delahunt, judge of the Circuit Court
- ▣ His Honour Judge Terence O'Sullivan, judge of the Circuit Court
- ▣ Mr. Patrick Hunt S.C., nominated by the Council of the Bar of Ireland
- ▣ Mr. Fergal Foley B.L., nominated by the Council of the Bar of Ireland
- ▣ Mr. Gerard J. Doherty, solicitor, nominated by the Law Society of Ireland
- ▣ Mr. Joseph T. Deane, solicitor, nominated by the Law Society of Ireland
- ▣ Ms. Faye Breen, B.L., nominated by the Attorney General

- ▣ Mr. Noel Rubotham, Courts Service, to whom membership has been delegated by the Chief Executive Officer under section 30(2) of the Courts Service Act, 1998
- ▣ Secretary - Ms. Susan Ryan, County Registrar, Dublin
- ▣ Draftsperson - Mr. Seán Barton, McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors

The Committee met on eight occasions in 2006.

During 2006 the following matters were given due consideration by the Committee with a view to amending or introducing new rules on practice and procedure in the Circuit Court:

- ▣ Pensions (Amendment) Act, 2002
- ▣ National Minimum Wage Act, 2000
- ▣ Mental Health Act, 2001
- ▣ EU 2201/2003 on Jurisdiction in Matrimonial matters and matters of Parental Responsibility
- ▣ Protection of Employees (Fixed Term Work) Act, 2003
- ▣ Taxi Regulations Act, 2003 (section 36)
- ▣ Employment Equality Acts, 1998 and 2004
- ▣ Equal Status Acts, 2000 and 2004
- ▣ EU 805/2004 on enforcement of orders in respect of uncontested claims
- ▣ Mode of address to judges Industrial Relations Acts, 2001 and 2004
- ▣ Residential Tenancies Act, 2004 (section 84)

- ▣ Social Welfare Consolidation Act, 2005
- ▣ Criminal Justice Act, 2006
- ▣ Criminal Law Insanity Act, 2006
- ▣ Health (Repayment Scheme) Act, 2006

The Committee continued its review of amendments to be made to the Circuit Court Rules, 2001.

Nuala Jackson B.L. stepped down as draftsman to the Committee in March 2006. The Committee expressed its sincere appreciation for the substantial volume of work undertaken by her over the years, in particular in regard to the consolidation of the Circuit Court Rules which resulted in the publication of the Circuit Court Rules, 2001. In May 2006 the Committee welcomed Seán Barton as draftsman.

Rules relating to the following were implemented in 2006:

- ▣ Statutory Instrument No.1 of 2006: Circuit Court Rules (European Enforcement Orders) 2006
- ▣ Statutory Instrument No 143 of 2006: Circuit Court Rules (Jurisdiction in Matrimonial matters and matters of Parental Responsibility), 2006
- ▣ Statutory Instrument No 274 of 2006: Circuit Court Rules (Mode of address of Judges), 2006

- ▣ Statutory Instrument No 275 of 2006: Circuit Court Rules (Employment Equality Acts 1998 and 2004), 2006
- ▣ Statutory Instrument No 349 of 2006: Circuit Court Rules (Equal Status Acts 2000 and 2004), 2006
- ▣ Statutory Instrument No 350 of 2006: Circuit Court Rules (Taxi Regulation), 2006
- ▣ Statutory Instrument No 409 of 2006: Circuit Court Rules (Court Seal), 2006
- ▣ Statutory Instrument No 410 of 2006: Circuit Court Rules (Residential Tenancies), 2006
- ▣ Statutory Instrument No 531 of 2006: Circuit Court Rules (National Minimum Wage Act), 2006
- ▣ Statutory Instrument No 532 of 2006: Circuit Court Rules (Protection of Employees (Fixed Term Work)), 2006

During the course of the year the Committee gave due consideration to submissions, reports and correspondence received from practitioners and other stakeholders in the practice and procedure of the Circuit Court.

Susan Ryan
Secretary

DISTRICT COURT RULES COMMITTEE

The rule making authority for the District Court is the District Court Rules Committee established under section 71 of the Courts of Justice Act, 1936. The Committee may annul or alter rules and make new rules with the concurrence of the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE AT YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2006:

- ▣ The President of the District Court, Her Honour Judge Miriam Malone (Chairperson)
- ▣ Judge John P. Brophy, judge of the District Court
- ▣ Judge Uinsin MacGruairc, judge of the District Court
- ▣ Judge Mary Devins, judge of the District Court
- ▣ Judge Thomas E. O'Donnell, judge of the District Court
- ▣ Mr. Hugh O'Neill, solicitor, nominated by the Law Society of Ireland
- ▣ Ms. Fiona Twomey, solicitor, nominated by the Law Society of Ireland
- ▣ Mr. David Kelly, Advisory Counsel, appointed to act in place of the Attorney General under section 36(4) of the Courts and Court Officers Act, 2002
- ▣ Mr. Noel A. Doherty, Directorate of Reform and Development, Courts Service, to whom membership has been delegated by the Chief Executive Officer under Section 30(2) of the Courts Service Act, 1998
- ▣ A nomination by the Council of the Bar of Ireland was awaited to replace Ms. Lisa Dempsey B.L. who was a member of the Committee until October 2006.
- ▣ Ms. Liz Hughes, Deputy Chief Clerk, Dublin Metropolitan District Court is the Secretary to the Committee
- ▣ Mr. Seán Barton, solicitor, McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors, is the draftsman for the Committee

The Committee met on five occasions during 2006 and considered and passed a number of Rules. The following Rules of the District Court were signed by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform between the 1st January 2006 and the 31st December 2006:

- ▣ S.I. No. 2 of 2006 District Court (European Enforcement Orders) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 4 of 2006 District Court (Small Claims) (Amendment) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 5 of 2006 District Court (Children) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 47 of 2006 District Court (Criminal Justice Act 1994, section 38) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 133 of 2006 District Court (Housing (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1997) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 149 of 2006 District Court (Order 24) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 161 of 2006 District Court (Equal Status Act 2000) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 162 of 2006 District Court (Temporary Closure Orders) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 209 of 2006 District Court (Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005) Rules, 2006

- ▣ S.I. No. 238 of 2006 District Court (Order 16) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 263 of 2006 District Court (Employment Equality Act 1998) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 314 of 2005 District Court (Taxi Regulation) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 396 of 2005 District Court (Warrants of Execution) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 397 of 2005 District Court (Equal Status Act 2000) (Amendment) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 398 of 2005 District Court (Case Stated) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 544 of 2005 District Court (Probation of Offenders) Rules, 2006
- ▣ S.I. No. 545 of 2005 District Court (Public Order) Rules, 2006

RULES RELATING TO THE FOLLOWING WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE AT YEAR END:

- ▣ Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2006 Rules
- ▣ Criminal Justice Act 2006 Rules
- ▣ Mental Health Act 2001 Rules (s. 25)

Liz Hughes
Secretary

THE RULES BELOW SIGNED BY THE COMMITTEE DURING 2006 WERE AWAITING THE CONCURRENCE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM:

- ▣ District Court (Mental Health Appeals) Rules



Chapter 9

Glossary of Terms

Glossary of Terms

Administration suit - a form of proceeding taken in order to establish who is entitled to share in the estate (that is the property) of a deceased person and/or to have the estate administered by the court where questions arise in respect of the estate

Affidavit - a written statement made on oath

Appeal - a proceeding taken by a party to a case dissatisfied with a decision made, to a court having authority to review or set aside that decision.

Appearance - a document which indicates that a defendant, after being served with a summons to a Circuit or High Court action, intends to defend the action

Barring Order - an order preventing a spouse from entering the family home or using or threatening violence against the other spouse or family members

Bill of Sale - a document transferring or mortgaging of an interest in movable property

Care Order - an order placing a child in the care of the health board until he or she reaches the age of eighteen or a shorter period as determined by the court

Caveat - a written notice to the court requesting that nothing be done regarding the estate of a deceased person without notice to the party who entered the caveat or his/her solicitor

Certified List - a list of cases which have been certified by counsel as being ready for hearing

Civil Bill - a document used to start a case in the Circuit Court. It gives details of the parties to the case and details of the claim that is being made

Claim - the assertion of a right. Taking a case against someone is a way of making a claim

Commissioner for Oaths - a person entitled to administer oaths and take affidavits

Courts-Martial Appeal Court - the name applied to the Court of Criminal Appeal when hearing appeals from courts martial (military tribunals for the trial of members of the defence forces on active service)

Deed Poll - a deed completed by one party only, often used to declare an intention to change a name

Defence - a document delivered by the defendant to the plaintiff in response to a civil bill or a plenary summons

Defendant - a person against whom an action is brought; a person charged with a criminal offence

Deponent - the person who swears an affidavit

Emergency care order - an order placing a child under the care of the health board for a maximum period of eight days if the court is of the opinion that there is a serious risk to the health or welfare of a child

Enduring Power of Attorney - a document providing for the management of a person's affairs in the event of their becoming mentally incapacitated

Ex officio - by virtue of his/her office

Ex parte - without notice to the other side of an action

In camera - a court hearing to which the public is not admitted

Indictment - a formal document setting out certain kinds of charges against an accused person or the process by which those charges are presented against the accused

Indictable offence - an offence which, if committed by an adult, is triable on indictment

Injunction - an order of the court directing a party to an action to do, or to refrain from doing, something

Interim barring order - an immediate order requiring a violent person to leave the family home, pending the hearing of an application for a barring order

Interim care order - an order, granted when an application for a care order has been or is about to be made, requiring that the child named in the order be placed in the care of the health board

Intestate - dying without making a valid will

Judicial Review - a legal remedy available in situations where a body or tribunal has acted in excess of legal authority or contrary to its duty

Judicial separation - a decree granted by the court relieving spouses to a marriage of the obligation to cohabit

Jurisdiction - (a) the power of a court or judge to hear an action, petition or other proceeding, or (b) the geographical area within which such power may be exercised

Lis Pendens – Action pending – the registration of an action against an owner of land

Mortgage suit - a form of proceeding to recover a debt owed to the holder of security on property - by forcing the sale of the property (usually on foot of a judgment mortgage or an equitable mortgage)

Nolle Prosequi - the entering by the prosecution of a stay on criminal proceedings (not to be confused with an acquittal)

Notary Public - a legal practitioner, usually a solicitor, who witnesses the signing of documents or makes copies of them in order to verify their authenticity, especially for use abroad

Oath - a form of words by which a person calls his/her God to witness that what he says is the truth, or that what he/she promises to do he will do

Original actions - actions commenced in the court of hearing (as opposed to cases appealed from a lower court)

Plaintiff - a person who brings a legal action against another

Plenary Summons - document used to begin certain civil proceedings (e.g. claims for non-specific damages, libel, nuisance) in the High Court where pleadings and oral evidence are required

Power of Attorney - a deed by which one person allows another to represent him, or act in his place either generally or for specified purposes

Protection Order - an interim order, granted when an application for a safety/barring order has been made, prohibiting a person from committing further acts of violence or threatening of violence

Revenue Summons - a form of summary summons heard on affidavit, used by the Revenue Commissioners to commence civil proceedings in the High Court to recover sums due (e.g. unpaid taxes)

Safety Order - an order prohibiting a person from committing further acts of violence or threatening to do so. It does not prevent the person from entering the family home.

Seat Office - part of the Probate Office in Dublin where applications by solicitors for grants of probate and administration are processed.

Setting down for trial - a request that an action be allocated a date for hearing

Special Exemption Order - an order allowing a licensee to sell alcohol outside the normal licensing hours subject to certain conditions

Special Summons - document used to begin certain civil proceedings (e.g. equity claims, mortgage enforcement, administration of trusts) in the High Court to be heard on affidavit (that is, not oral evidence)

Subpoena - an order issued in an action requiring a person to be present at a specified place and time for a specified purpose under penalty

Subpoena ad testificandum - an order to attend and give evidence

Subpoena duces tecum - an order to attend and produce certain specified documents

Summary Judgment - judgment for a claim in respect of a debt or specific monetary demand. The judgment is given to the plaintiff against the defendant in a court office without the need to bring the claim to court.

Summary Summons - document used to commence certain civil proceedings (e.g. claims for a specific amount of money, recovery of possession by a landlord) in the High Court, to be heard on affidavit

Supervision order - an order authorising a health board to visit a child periodically to satisfy itself as to the child's welfare and enabling the health board to give advice regarding the child's welfare

Waiting time - the time between the court offices being notified that a case is ready to proceed to hearing/trial and the actual date for hearing/trial

Additional Information

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CONTACTING OFFICES OF THE SERVICE

Contact details for the main offices of the Service are published on the website. Details may also be obtained from the Information Office, Courts Service, Phoenix House, 15/24 Phoenix Street North, Smithfield, Dublin 7. Telephone: 01-8886000.

EIRCOM TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

Telephone numbers for the main offices of the Service are contained in the green pages section of the current eircom telephone directories.

OTHER INFORMATION

Details of court cases at hearing in the High Court in Dublin and Cork are displayed on electronic boards in the Four Courts in Dublin and in the courthouse in Washington Street, Cork.

The Legal Diary providing details of cases for hearing in the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeal, the High Court (including the Central Criminal Court), Dublin Circuit Court and many Provincial Circuit Courts is published on the website.

The Annual Reports of the Service together with the Strategic Plans, Customer Service Action Plan, Customer Charter and other publications are published on the website.

Copies of all publications are available from the Information Office.

WEBSITE

The website can be accessed at www.courts.ie

SOLICITORS

A & L Goodbody,
Solicitors,
International Financial Services Centre,
North Wall Quay,
Dublin 1.

McCann Fitzgerald,
Solicitors,
2 Harbourmaster Place,
International Financial Services Centre,
Dublin 1.

AUDITORS

The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General,
Treasury Block,
Lower Yard,
Dublin Castle,
Dublin 2.
(Appropriation Accounts)

Deloitte & Touche
Chartered Accountants
Deloitte & Touche House
Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 2.
(Financial Statements of the Office of the
Accountant of the Courts of Justice)

Appendices

COUNTY	CRIMINAL CASES		CIVIL CASES				FAMILY LAW CASES					HIGH COURT APPEALS	
	CRIMINAL BUSINESS DEALT WITH	DISTRICT COURT APPEALS HEARD	CIVIL TRIALS DEALT WITH	MOTIONS DEALT WITH	DISTRICT COURT CIVIL APPEALS HEARD	LIQUOR LICENCES GRANTED	JUDICIAL SEPARATION GRANTED	DIVORCE GRANTED	NULLITY GRANTED	SECTION 33 APPEALS GRANTED	DISTRICT FAMILY LAW APPEALS HEARD	CIVIL APPEALS	FAMILY LAW APPEALS
CARLOW	18	82	93	349	1	1	12	68	0	0	13	11	0
CAVAN	18	85	66	171	8	18	22	43	0	20	0	4	1
CLARE	50	212	146	584	14	16	22	82	0	9	4	5	3
CORK	323	1,071	923	1,140	92	28	125	382	5	80	56	32	12
DONEGAL	32	139	125	631	1	26	21	73	0	47	8	18	6
DUBLIN	1,127	n/a	3,182	6,860	59	92	341	1,194	6	199	272	60	60
GALWAY	80	293	615	901	13	28	87	184	4	43	20	55	12
KERRY	53	107	190	626	20	21	25	115	2	15	7	13	2
KILDARE	71	264	141	482	6	25	29	106	1	36	23	2	4
KILKENNY	20	56	205	494	1	7	25	101	0	18	4	5	1
LAOIS	33	99	64	185	4	9	6	37	1	22	11	0	2
LEITRIM	4	34	47	79	10	5	1	14	1	12	2	1	1
LIMERICK	93	285	369	875	20	19	101	87	0	68	34	32	20
LONGFORD	9	45	56	192	5	12	5	21	1	0	1	7	1
LOUTH	39	140	293	662	5	20	32	116	0	40	26	8	3
MAYO	44	91	167	483	7	27	20	72	0	17	8	16	5
MEATH	16	77	273	760	4	35	29	104	0	44	18	3	6
MONAGHAN	22	124	85	184	1	12	20	24	2	22	0	0	2
OFFALY	15	92	60	151	8	3	14	53	0	13	7	4	7
ROSCOMMON	11	54	63	189	8	5	13	24	0	7	0	11	6
SLIGO	52	46	114	154	6	8	11	52	0	15	6	9	2
TIPPERARY	27	131	265	726	16	16	32	97	1	20	13	16	3
WATERFORD	47	127	132	550	8	16	28	72	1	23	12	19	5
WESTMEATH	24	89	75	295	4	9	15	83	0	14	7	21	0
WEXFORD	20	116	182	232	2	14	24	131	0	18	21	4	3
WICKLOW	68	97	237	470	11	19	12	85	0	34	14	10	0
TOTAL	2,316	3,956	8,168	18,425	334	491	1,072	3,420	25	836	587	366	167

COUNTY	JUDICIAL SEPARATION				DIVORCE				NULLITY				SECTION 33				APPEALS	
	RECEIVED	GRANTED	REFUSED	WD/SO/ADJ	RECEIVED	GRANTED	REFUSED	WD/SO/ADJ	RECEIVED	GRANTED	REFUSED	WD/SO/ADJ	RECEIVED	GRANTED	REFUSED	WD/SO/ADJ	RECEIVED	DEALT WITH
CARLOW	25	12	0	2	49	68	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	10	13
CAVAN	13	22	0	0	43	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	20	1	0	2	0
CLARE	38	22	0	0	101	82	0	0	2	0	0	0	9	9	0	0	10	4
CORK	256	125	0	0	467	382	0	0	9	5	0	0	83	80	3	0	58	56
DONEGAL	61	21	0	0	87	73	0	1	1	0	0	1	50	47	3	0	14	8
DUBLIN	540	341	0	0	1,310	1,194	0	0	28	6	0	0	207	199	8	0	281	272
GALWAY	117	87	0	0	213	184	0	0	1	4	0	1	47	43	2	0	20	20
KERRY	44	25	0	0	115	115	0	0	2	2	0	0	15	15	0	0	6	7
KILDARE	74	29	0	0	129	106	0	0	0	1	0	0	36	36	0	0	15	23
KILKENNY	23	25	0	5	76	101	0	6	0	0	0	0	19	18	1	0	1	4
LAOIS	9	6	0	10	41	37	0	0	1	1	0	0	23	22	0	1	16	11
LEITRIM	11	1	0	0	14	14	0	0	1	1	0	0	20	12	2	0	2	2
LIMERICK	74	101	0	6	190	87	0	7	1	0	0	1	70	68	2	0	26	34
LONGFORD	13	5	0	0	22	21	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	1
LOUTH	50	32	0	0	108	116	0	2	3	0	0	0	40	40	0	0	32	26
MAYO	39	20	0	2	89	72	0	0	1	0	0	0	17	17	0	0	6	8
MEATH	75	29	0	0	125	104	0	0	1	0	0	0	49	44	1	2	31	18
MONAGHAN	30	20	0	0	53	24	0	0	2	2	0	0	31	22	1	3	1	0
OFFALY	20	14	0	0	50	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	0	0	9	7
ROSCOMMON	16	13	0	0	37	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	2	0
SLIGO	25	11	0	1	49	52	0	0	2	0	0	0	21	15	0	0	9	6
TIPPERARY	57	32	0	0	158	97	0	1	1	1	0	0	24	20	0	0	16	13
WATERFORD	39	28	0	0	109	72	1	0	0	1	0	0	25	23	2	0	0	12
WESTMEATH	36	15	0	3	81	83	0	1	0	0	0	1	13	14	0	0	12	7
WEXFORD	48	24	0	0	157	131	1	0	2	0	0	0	18	18	0	0	12	21
WICKLOW	56	12	0	6	113	85	0	8	2	0	0	0	38	34	3	1	16	14
TOTAL	1,789	1,072	0	35	3,986	3,420	3	30	60	25	0	4	903	836	29	8	610	587

Sexual Offences

OFFICE		IMP/DET	FINES	COMM SERV	PROB/DPOA	STRUCK OUT	DISMISS	TIC	ADJOUR N GEN	PEACE BOND	OTHER	TOTAL
Athlone	Cases	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Defendants	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ballina	Cases	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
	Defendants	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Ballinasloe	Cases	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
	Defendants	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Bray	Cases	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	8
	Defendants	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	6
Carlow	Cases	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Defendants	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Carrick-on- Shannon	Cases	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Defendants	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Cavan	Cases	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	6
	Defendants	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	6
Castlebar	Cases	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Defendants	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Clonakilty	Cases	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Defendants	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Clonmel	Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Defendants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cork City	Cases	8	5	0	2	4	1	1	0	0	0	21
	Defendants	5	5	0	2	4	1	1	0	0	0	18
Doire an Fhéich	Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Defendants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donegal	Cases	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Defendants	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Drogheda	Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Defendants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dublin	Cases	20	27	2	42	75	14	33	0	1	11	225
	Defendants	15	25	2	32	54	10	20	0	1	11	170
Dundalk	Cases	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
	Defendants	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
Ennis	Cases	1	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	7
	Defendants	1	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	7
Fermoy	Cases	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Defendants	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Galway	Cases	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
	Defendants	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
Kilkenny	Cases	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Defendants	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Killarney	Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Defendants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Letterkenny	Cases	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Defendants	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Listowel	Cases	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Defendants	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Limerick	Cases	3	6	0	3	2	0	16	0	1	0	31
	Defendants	1	6	0	3	2	0	5	0	1	0	18

Sexual Offences

OFFICE		IMP/DET	FINES	COMM SERV	PROB/DPOA	STRUCK OUT	DISMISS	TIC	ADJOUR N GEN	PEACE BOND	OTHER	TOTAL
Longford	Cases	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
	Defendants	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Loughrea	Cases	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Defendants	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mallow	Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Defendants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monaghan	Cases	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	7
	Defendants	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	6
Mullingar	Cases	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
	Defendants	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
Naas	Cases	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Defendants	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Nenagh	Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Defendants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portlaoise	Cases	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Defendants	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Roscommon	Cases	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Defendants	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sligo	Cases	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
	Defendants	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Thurles	Cases	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Defendants	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tralee	Cases	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Defendants	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Trim	Cases	2	0	0	4	4	0	2	0	1	0	13
	Defendants	1	0	0	3	4	0	2	0	1	0	11
Tuam	Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Defendants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tullamore	Cases	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Defendants	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Waterford	Cases	0	8	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	14
	Defendants	0	8	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	14
Wexford	Cases	6	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	11
	Defendants	6	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	11
Youghal	Cases	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Defendants	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	Cases	68	71	2	66	112	18	59	0	8	11	415
	Defendants	54	69	2	53	90	14	35	0	8	11	336

Please note: In some cases, the same defendant may appear under more than one category.

Returns for Trial - Sexual offences: **Cases 979 / Defendants 154**

Public Order / Assault

OFFICE		IMP/DET	FINES	COMM SERV	PROB/ DPOA	STRUCK OUT	DISMISS	TIC	ADJOUR N GEN	PEACE BOND	OTHER	TOTAL
Athlone	Cases	41	78	8	102	118	1	243	0	3	13	607
	Defendants	41	74	8	71	92	1	120	0	3	10	420
Ballina	Cases	57	99	0	43	42	25	105	0	8	7	386
	Defendants	36	74	0	37	26	20	59	0	8	5	265
Ballinasloe	Cases	55	67	7	30	119	4	169	0	6	6	463
	Defendants	44	61	7	27	71	3	79	0	4	5	301
Bray	Cases	80	145	6	161	143	20	176	40	36	8	815
	Defendants	59	121	6	133	109	17	114	20	30	7	616
Carlow	Cases	64	144	9	140	81	26	124	0	15	8	611
	Defendants	45	118	6	98	59	24	71	0	11	5	437
Carrick-on- Shannon	Cases	40	53	4	34	65	15	74	0	4	3	292
	Defendants	26	42	4	27	53	7	35	0	4	1	199
Cavan	Cases	227	65	28	170	329	51	295	1	98	9	1,273
	Defendants	169	63	28	137	256	38	167	1	92	6	957
Castlebar	Cases	43	70	3	34	20	35	87	0	4	6	302
	Defendants	34	58	2	30	17	20	55	0	4	3	223
Clonakilty	Cases	112	113	7	121	111	20	77	0	8	2	571
	Defendants	65	100	7	97	84	15	53	0	8	1	430
Clonmel	Cases	56	98	36	72	49	18	72	0	1	9	411
	Defendants	35	89	25	49	34	14	48	0	1	6	301
Cork City	Cases	843	653	129	490	576	126	690	3	77	68	3,655
	Defendants	479	565	98	411	460	107	434	2	77	49	2,682
Doire an Fhéich	Cases	7	32	1	13	9	7	10	0	0	1	80
	Defendants	5	26	1	7	8	5	7	0	0	1	60
Donegal	Cases	17	208	3	34	26	17	65	0	0	12	382
	Defendants	15	156	3	29	19	14	37	0	0	10	283
Drogheda	Cases	54	90	2	138	60	24	22	0	11	3	404
	Defendants	32	76	2	95	42	20	17	0	10	3	297
Dublin	Cases	1,085	1,930	274	2,247	3,552	545	2,980	5	65	682	13,365
	Defendants	740	1,684	230	1,558	2,617	419	1,732	3	53	491	9,527
Dundalk	Cases	117	103	6	167	140	17	15	5	1	2	573
	Defendants	49	69	3	112	89	15	8	2	1	2	350
Ennis	Cases	92	126	11	79	191	61	160	0	16	15	751
	Defendants	65	115	10	68	153	51	102	0	16	12	592
Fermoy	Cases	95	71	4	23	19	28	55	0	0	4	299
	Defendants	66	49	4	21	15	23	40	0	0	2	220
Galway	Cases	143	284	3	139	80	28	184	0	3	8	872
	Defendants	89	246	3	101	68	25	135	0	3	7	677
Kilkenny	Cases	77	81	10	25	29	10	11	0	3	1	247
	Defendants	39	57	6	19	28	9	8	0	3	1	170
Killarney	Cases	8	76	1	17	40	7	16	0	0	0	165
	Defendants	6	59	1	16	35	6	13	0	0	0	136
Letterkenny	Cases	48	395	11	65	72	75	136	0	1	41	844
	Defendants	37	308	11	49	59	50	81	0	1	26	622
Listowel	Cases	100	103	35	89	9	8	56	5	7	1	413
	Defendants	68	87	18	66	6	5	31	5	7	1	294
Limerick	Cases	309	381	48	176	451	40	580	23	99	34	2,141
	Defendants	210	334	33	109	317	32	345	13	96	25	1,514

Public Order / Assault

OFFICE		IMP/DET	FINES	COMM SERV	PROB/DPOA	STRUCK OUT	DISMISS	TIC	ADJOUR N GEN	PEACE BOND	OTHER	TOTAL
Longford	Cases	63	75	2	23	15	102	41	0	24	1	346
	Defendants	49	64	2	17	13	80	31	0	20	1	277
Loughrea	Cases	18	17	2	31	15	10	53	3	2	1	152
	Defendants	16	16	2	23	11	5	29	3	2	1	108
Mallow	Cases	87	80	1	39	47	57	66	0	2	4	383
	Defendants	73	67	1	25	43	39	47	0	2	3	300
Monaghan	Cases	95	88	17	203	200	28	78	0	65	2	776
	Defendants	72	78	17	159	150	22	53	0	56	2	609
Mullingar	Cases	63	103	4	49	26	110	42	0	22	3	422
	Defendants	37	91	3	30	23	83	36	0	17	3	323
Naas	Cases	104	113	4	128	160	21	213	3	62	7	815
	Defendants	49	92	3	90	131	15	111	2	54	4	551
Nenagh	Cases	32	42	2	41	78	9	57	0	2	7	270
	Defendants	28	41	2	26	61	6	37	0	2	6	209
Portlaoise	Cases	66	98	6	180	82	16	98	0	4	1	551
	Defendants	41	76	4	118	63	12	53	0	4	1	372
Roscommon	Cases	54	103	0	21	80	17	68	1	2	2	348
	Defendants	30	81	0	18	65	9	40	1	2	2	248
Sligo	Cases	68	108	5	26	181	34	81	0	25	5	533
	Defendants	41	96	4	24	115	26	38	0	22	5	371
Thurles	Cases	65	77	10	51	156	13	144	1	3	22	542
	Defendants	50	68	10	41	119	9	90	1	3	12	403
Tralee	Cases	27	121	0	78	62	4	55	0	0	0	347
	Defendants	17	98	0	67	57	3	25	0	0	0	267
Trim	Cases	35	237	1	52	193	17	245	0	2	11	793
	Defendants	19	205	1	43	146	13	143	0	2	10	582
Tuam	Cases	36	66	2	25	48	23	54	3	0	1	258
	Defendants	25	50	2	17	36	16	32	2	0	1	181
Tullamore	Cases	123	150	17	94	49	65	111	0	28	11	648
	Defendants	70	107	7	57	38	49	73	0	23	9	433
Waterford	Cases	84	118	24	44	153	7	28	0	2	3	463
	Defendants	55	103	19	38	107	5	17	0	2	3	349
Wexford	Cases	55	85	3	95	216	17	242	4	4	6	727
	Defendants	51	78	3	84	143	16	132	3	4	4	518
Youghal	Cases	89	83	11	27	63	40	87	0	0	4	404
	Defendants	57	70	4	19	42	31	60	0	0	4	287
Total	Cases	4,934	7,229	757	5,816	8,155	1,798	8,165	97	715	1,034	38,700
	Defendants	3,234	6,112	600	4,263	6,080	1,379	4,838	58	647	750	27,961

Please note: In some cases, the same defendant may appear under more than one category.

Returns for Trial - Public Order / Assault: **Cases 1,194 / Defendants 885**

Drugs

OFFICE		IMP/DET	FINES	COMM SERV	PROB/ DPOA	STRUCK OUT	DISMISS	TIC	ADJOUR N GEN	PEACE BOND	OTHER	TOTAL
Athlone	Cases	2	9	0	9	8	0	10	0	0	2	40
	Defendants	2	9	0	7	3	0	6	0	0	2	29
Ballina	Cases	2	10	0	8	5	0	6	0	0	1	32
	Defendants	2	10	0	7	5	0	3	0	0	1	28
Ballinasloe	Cases	0	5	0	9	1	0	1	0	0	0	16
	Defendants	0	5	0	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	14
Bray	Cases	18	51	4	53	27	2	40	0	2	4	201
	Defendants	12	42	3	41	20	2	21	0	2	3	146
Carlow	Cases	10	50	0	52	9	1	25	0	0	1	148
	Defendants	9	37	0	39	7	1	15	0	0	1	109
Carrick-on- Shannon	Cases	2	6	0	6	7	1	5	0	0	0	27
	Defendants	2	6	0	2	7	1	4	0	0	0	22
Cavan	Cases	26	13	0	17	27	1	28	0	6	0	118
	Defendants	23	13	0	15	16	1	13	0	6	0	87
Castlebar	Cases	6	14	0	15	2	3	10	0	1	0	51
	Defendants	4	11	0	11	2	2	6	0	1	0	37
Clonakilty	Cases	8	47	1	32	15	2	23	0	0	0	128
	Defendants	5	41	1	30	8	2	11	0	0	0	98
Clonmel	Cases	12	57	8	31	7	3	16	0	0	0	134
	Defendants	11	47	5	26	6	2	7	0	0	0	104
Cork City	Cases	64	183	14	128	70	16	81	1	4	11	572
	Defendants	49	163	13	117	63	14	38	1	4	8	470
Doire an Fhéich	Cases	0	8	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	11
	Defendants	0	7	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	9
Donegal	Cases	7	35	0	6	2	1	11	0	0	2	64
	Defendants	7	30	0	3	2	1	6	0	0	2	51
Drogheda	Cases	16	10	0	12	3	5	2	0	5	0	53
	Defendants	12	9	0	11	3	5	1	0	5	0	46
Dublin	Cases	312	558	68	593	1,081	69	651	0	17	88	3,437
	Defendants	260	511	57	384	768	56	330	0	9	60	2,435
Dundalk	Cases	3	14	0	10	4	2	0	0	0	0	33
	Defendants	3	11	0	9	4	2	0	0	0	0	29
Ennis	Cases	12	27	1	34	34	6	33	0	2	1	150
	Defendants	12	26	1	27	32	4	18	0	2	1	123
Fermoy	Cases	8	27	0	7	1	1	10	0	0	0	54
	Defendants	8	26	0	6	1	1	6	0	0	0	48
Galway	Cases	14	106	0	18	8	1	10	0	0	1	158
	Defendants	11	91	0	12	7	1	8	0	0	1	131
Kilkenny	Cases	39	72	3	25	39	3	44	0	1	1	227
	Defendants	30	62	2	24	26	2	21	0	1	1	169
Killarney	Cases	0	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	10
	Defendants	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
Letterkenny	Cases	2	29	0	6	4	1	7	0	0	1	50
	Defendants	2	27	0	6	4	1	5	0	0	1	46
Listowel	Cases	1	38	5	13	1	0	2	0	0	0	60
	Defendants	1	34	2	7	1	0	2	0	0	0	47
Limerick	Cases	45	163	4	80	99	3	105	0	15	26	540
	Defendants	39	153	4	50	77	3	56	0	14	18	414

Drugs

OFFICE		IMP/DET	FINES	COMM SERV	PROB/DPOA	STRUCK OUT	DISMISS	TIC	ADJOUR N GEN	PEACE BOND	OTHER	TOTAL
Longford	Cases	7	22	1	4	3	3	3	0	1	9	53
	Defendants	6	19	1	4	3	3	2	0	1	8	47
Loughrea	Cases	2	4	0	5	1	0	5	0	0	0	17
	Defendants	2	4	0	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	12
Mallow	Cases	13	49	3	76	28	5	13	0	0	1	188
	Defendants	9	46	3	63	23	5	7	0	0	1	157
Monaghan	Cases	32	24	0	32	16	5	29	0	5	0	143
	Defendants	21	18	0	30	10	5	12	0	5	0	101
Mullingar	Cases	13	39	5	5	2	12	7	0	1	9	93
	Defendants	8	36	4	4	2	12	3	0	1	8	78
Naas	Cases	43	223	2	23	44	5	60	0	4	0	404
	Defendants	23	199	2	16	32	3	25	0	4	0	304
Nenagh	Cases	10	13	1	6	16	0	17	0	1	4	68
	Defendants	10	13	1	3	10	0	7	0	1	4	49
Portlaoise	Cases	21	40	5	82	57	2	33	0	0	0	240
	Defendants	13	37	2	71	49	2	16	0	0	0	190
Roscommon	Cases	5	27	0	13	12	0	15	0	0	0	72
	Defendants	5	24	0	6	7	0	5	0	0	0	47
Sligo	Cases	13	41	1	12	14	4	8	0	1	0	94
	Defendants	8	30	1	8	12	4	5	0	1	0	69
Thurles	Cases	6	9	0	3	5	1	20	0	0	1	45
	Defendants	5	9	0	2	4	1	12	0	0	1	34
Tralee	Cases	2	16	0	5	8	0	2	0	0	0	33
	Defendants	2	16	0	4	6	0	1	0	0	0	29
Trim	Cases	0	48	0	10	19	2	25	0	1	0	105
	Defendants	0	37	0	10	16	2	14	0	1	0	80
Tuam	Cases	2	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
	Defendants	1	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
Tullamore	Cases	19	48	4	16	7	10	14	0	1	11	130
	Defendants	10	40	4	13	5	7	6	0	1	8	94
Waterford	Cases	53	197	2	49	130	5	39	0	1	0	476
	Defendants	42	166	2	48	115	3	19	0	1	0	396
Wexford	Cases	13	34	3	61	24	2	85	0	0	6	228
	Defendants	12	32	3	54	23	2	29	0	0	5	160
Youghal	Cases	25	37	1	14	17	2	34	0	0	0	130
	Defendants	20	35	1	13	14	2	15	0	0	0	100
Total	Cases	888	2,418	136	1,580	1,858	180	1,532	1	69	180	8,842
	Defendants	701	2,144	112	1,193	1,396	153	760	1	60	134	6,654

Please note: In some cases, the same defendant may appear under more than one category.

Returns for Trial - Drugs: **Cases 1,824 / Defendants 537**

Larceny

OFFICE		IMP/DET	FINES	COMM SERV	PROB/ DPOA	STRUCK OUT	DISMISS	TIC	ADJOUR N GEN	PEACE BOND	OTHER	TOTAL
Athlone	Cases	37	32	5	44	41	2	159	0	0	2	322
	Defendants	32	28	5	34	26	2	42	0	0	2	171
Ballina	Cases	30	18	8	31	9	4	15	0	0	0	115
	Defendants	15	13	1	21	5	2	8	0	0	0	65
Ballinasloe	Cases	20	8	0	18	9	2	59	0	0	3	119
	Defendants	16	6	0	16	7	2	20	0	0	2	69
Bray	Cases	78	25	4	63	45	2	140	0	17	2	376
	Defendants	55	25	3	39	33	2	42	0	17	2	218
Carlow	Cases	78	61	4	113	33	9	152	0	2	3	455
	Defendants	41	51	3	43	25	5	32	0	2	2	204
Carrick-on- Shannon	Cases	17	11	0	14	17	3	16	0	1	0	79
	Defendants	11	11	0	9	12	3	5	0	1	0	52
Cavan	Cases	109	18	6	29	58	3	83	0	72	16	394
	Defendants	72	16	6	21	34	3	31	0	31	3	217
Castlebar	Cases	29	10	1	14	17	1	34	0	1	1	108
	Defendants	17	10	1	12	9	1	11	0	1	1	63
Clonakilty	Cases	96	53	8	44	43	11	106	0	2	5	368
	Defendants	53	46	5	32	33	6	33	0	2	5	215
Clonmel	Cases	47	14	10	32	33	0	15	0	1	1	153
	Defendants	21	14	3	21	10	0	9	0	1	1	80
Cork City	Cases	738	326	37	396	242	27	451	0	20	28	2,265
	Defendants	268	284	33	308	191	20	154	0	19	20	1,297
Doire an Fhéich	Cases	9	3	1	15	5	0	2	0	0	0	35
	Defendants	4	2	1	7	4	0	1	0	0	0	19
Donegal	Cases	11	30	1	3	1	2	63	0	0	2	113
	Defendants	9	30	1	3	1	1	15	0	0	1	61
Drogheda	Cases	37	7	0	42	9	4	19	0	14	0	132
	Defendants	16	7	0	31	8	4	3	0	5	0	74
Dublin	Cases	1,906	1,058	197	1,832	3,540	253	2,196	1	44	526	11,553
	Defendants	961	952	159	1,086	2,236	213	944	1	42	375	6,969
Dundalk	Cases	156	25	5	67	31	13	6	3	3	5	314
	Defendants	43	17	4	42	26	11	3	1	1	4	152
Ennis	Cases	51	28	1	31	29	14	92	0	8	11	265
	Defendants	36	27	1	25	21	11	34	0	8	5	168
Fermoy	Cases	36	17	2	14	18	0	12	0	0	1	100
	Defendants	22	15	2	6	12	0	7	0	0	1	65
Galway	Cases	165	171	4	86	37	7	92	0	2	3	567
	Defendants	86	154	4	71	30	7	40	0	2	3	397
Kilkenny	Cases	169	27	30	66	21	0	46	0	0	1	360
	Defendants	49	25	7	48	20	0	18	0	0	1	168
Killarney	Cases	10	3	0	7	1	0	2	0	0	0	23
	Defendants	6	3	0	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	16
Letterkenny	Cases	33	66	1	23	10	5	104	0	0	16	258
	Defendants	21	55	1	11	8	2	28	0	0	7	133
Listowel	Cases	27	19	3	18	7	1	4	1	1	1	82
	Defendants	9	14	2	10	2	1	3	1	1	1	44
Limerick	Cases	298	79	52	260	162	5	380	3	99	33	1,371
	Defendants	156	72	8	208	127	5	131	1	70	23	801

Larceny

OFFICE		IMP/DET	FINES	COMM SERV	PROB/DPOA	STRUCK OUT	DISMISS	TIC	ADJOUR N GEN	PEACE BOND	OTHER	TOTAL
Longford	Cases	47	22	1	23	6	3	45	0	7	1	155
	Defendants	23	19	1	20	6	3	6	0	6	1	85
Loughrea	Cases	10	7	5	3	5	1	25	0	0	0	56
	Defendants	10	7	5	3	3	1	13	0	0	0	42
Mallow	Cases	44	23	1	14	19	2	32	0	0	1	136
	Defendants	28	19	1	9	15	2	11	0	0	1	86
Monaghan	Cases	127	11	3	58	60	6	33	0	67	0	365
	Defendants	54	11	3	32	47	6	15	0	22	0	190
Mullingar	Cases	51	20	50	15	20	3	7	0	2	2	170
	Defendants	18	20	4	13	17	3	3	0	2	1	81
Naas	Cases	149	30	0	49	31	3	123	0	31	6	422
	Defendants	54	28	0	27	29	3	46	0	30	1	218
Nenagh	Cases	31	14	1	17	14	1	79	0	1	11	169
	Defendants	27	14	1	17	12	1	27	0	1	5	105
Portlaoise	Cases	65	59	4	80	32	0	166	0	1	9	416
	Defendants	43	51	4	35	24	0	45	0	1	3	206
Roscommon	Cases	47	35	2	6	26	10	15	0	2	0	143
	Defendants	22	29	1	4	13	2	7	0	2	0	80
Sligo	Cases	88	37	3	27	49	5	29	0	0	1	239
	Defendants	43	36	1	20	31	3	10	0	0	1	145
Thurles	Cases	46	24	4	31	31	2	70	0	1	6	215
	Defendants	28	19	4	22	13	2	24	0	1	4	117
Tralee	Cases	33	34	0	17	18	2	19	0	0	0	123
	Defendants	21	30	0	16	11	2	10	0	0	0	90
Trim	Cases	84	24	3	64	72	4	80	0	5	4	340
	Defendants	33	22	3	37	47	3	47	0	5	3	200
Tuam	Cases	18	16	5	5	15	2	5	0	0	2	68
	Defendants	7	15	1	4	7	2	3	0	0	1	40
Tullamore	Cases	97	31	19	29	99	13	53	0	3	7	351
	Defendants	44	28	4	17	25	13	19	0	3	3	156
Waterford	Cases	165	58	51	119	77	1	47	0	0	1	519
	Defendants	66	52	24	86	47	1	23	0	0	1	300
Wexford	Cases	78	41	1	62	43	11	234	0	0	15	485
	Defendants	59	40	1	56	37	9	65	0	0	6	273
Youghal	Cases	85	29	4	7	18	1	15	0	0	5	164
	Defendants	37	25	4	7	11	1	10	0	0	3	98
Total	Cases	5,452	2,624	537	3,888	5,053	438	5,325	8	407	731	24,463
	Defendants	2,636	2,342	312	2,534	3,276	358	1,999	4	276	493	14,230

Please note: In some cases, the same defendant may appear under more than one category.

Returns for Trial - Larceny: **Cases 3,213 / Defendants 904**

All Road Traffic

OFFICE		IMP/DET	FINES	COMM SERV	PROB/DPOA	STRUCK OUT	DISMISS	TIC	ADJOUR N GEN	PEACE BOND	OTHER	TOTAL
Athlone	Cases	34	316	1	45	281	26	310	0	1	28	1,042
	Defendants	30	286	1	23	148	18	105	0	1	25	637
Ballina	Cases	32	456	0	12	230	65	372	0	0	29	1,196
	Defendants	22	281	0	7	114	46	138	0	0	22	630
Ballinasloe	Cases	24	316	1	24	273	14	398	0	0	32	1,082
	Defendants	20	271	1	15	180	13	132	0	0	26	658
Bray	Cases	160	1,201	42	194	1,846	230	1,373	2	3	58	5,109
	Defendants	107	832	16	122	902	209	427	2	2	48	2,667
Carlow	Cases	46	1,022	4	101	1,033	113	929	0	0	47	3,295
	Defendants	32	771	4	50	453	64	315	0	0	44	1,733
Carrick-on- Shannon	Cases	11	341	0	31	285	77	176	0	0	8	929
	Defendants	8	277	0	21	158	52	78	0	0	8	602
Cavan	Cases	143	1,049	6	36	1,080	375	1,110	0	29	48	3,876
	Defendants	68	834	6	23	569	216	367	0	18	45	2,146
Castlebar	Cases	38	538	0	18	348	83	367	0	0	20	1,412
	Defendants	20	283	0	15	163	34	131	0	0	13	659
Clonakilty	Cases	68	799	0	151	1,055	94	544	0	0	59	2,770
	Defendants	42	630	0	103	547	58	228	0	0	46	1,654
Clonmel	Cases	53	626	25	20	129	51	460	0	2	40	1,406
	Defendants	22	459	14	9	71	38	159	0	2	33	807
Cork City	Cases	670	4,508	45	72	5,671	851	3,127	6	12	171	15,133
	Defendants	267	3,165	40	53	2,859	479	1,120	1	12	107	8,103
Doire an Fhéich	Cases	24	244	4	50	139	21	163	0	0	6	651
	Defendants	8	160	2	37	84	16	63	0	0	6	376
Donegal	Cases	20	535	0	6	152	75	447	0	0	57	1,292
	Defendants	15	362	0	5	91	52	195	0	0	32	752
Drogheda	Cases	66	758	1	36	643	177	95	0	14	19	1,809
	Defendants	26	500	1	27	331	117	18	0	6	19	1,045
Dublin	Cases	1,779	25,307	254	1,719	56,582	2,136	16,203	12	31	1,389	105,412
	Defendants	982	17,765	167	843	21,966	1,255	5,082	4	28	583	48,675
Dundalk	Cases	154	1,001	10	61	1,158	131	39	0	0	46	2,600
	Defendants	59	622	5	44	550	85	12	0	0	39	1,416
Ennis	Cases	69	1,365	4	137	1,646	189	1,449	0	7	30	4,896
	Defendants	45	966	3	99	788	119	603	0	6	24	2,653
Fermoy	Cases	65	524	0	11	221	224	310	0	0	19	1,374
	Defendants	43	329	0	5	106	136	122	0	0	15	756
Galway	Cases	328	1,496	12	186	588	135	949	0	6	46	3,746
	Defendants	100	1,032	6	135	330	89	401	0	6	44	2,143
Kilkenny	Cases	48	786	15	13	521	37	132	0	0	19	1,571
	Defendants	25	531	9	12	266	27	60	0	0	16	946
Killarney	Cases	4	506	0	17	388	70	228	0	0	23	1,236
	Defendants	4	416	0	12	231	56	120	0	0	23	862
Letterkenny	Cases	26	977	2	25	287	221	766	0	0	79	2,383
	Defendants	20	654	2	12	135	144	275	0	0	59	1,301
Listowel	Cases	15	993	0	8	84	125	439	5	0	17	1,686
	Defendants	12	561	0	6	37	68	155	1	0	17	857
Limerick	Cases	233	4,578	14	225	7,296	372	4,016	15	42	132	16,923
	Defendants	146	3,468	8	147	5,097	257	1,346	4	42	102	10,617

All Road Traffic

OFFICE		IMP/DET	FINES	COMM SERV	PROB/DPOA	STRUCK OUT	DISMISS	TIC	ADJOUR N GEN	PEACE BOND	OTHER	TOTAL
Longford	Cases	53	338	3	114	37	403	179	0	6	44	1,177
	Defendants	26	280	3	87	25	242	82	0	6	27	778
Loughrea	Cases	19	245	1	46	214	38	369	0	0	26	958
	Defendants	15	208	1	22	108	22	123	0	0	15	514
Mallow	Cases	65	597	3	23	225	226	354	0	0	15	1,508
	Defendants	50	383	2	13	115	135	150	0	0	14	862
Monaghan	Cases	119	1,097	3	62	925	173	307	0	22	55	2,763
	Defendants	67	854	3	30	547	108	120	0	20	50	1,799
Mullingar	Cases	43	377	6	90	31	446	166	0	6	28	1,193
	Defendants	26	322	3	66	19	223	73	0	5	23	760
Naas	Cases	128	2,229	0	141	2,005	125	1,261	0	6	66	5,961
	Defendants	99	1,370	0	109	940	82	514	0	6	59	3,179
Nenagh	Cases	11	293	0	56	231	37	306	0	0	19	953
	Defendants	11	258	0	25	137	29	100	0	0	16	576
Portlaoise	Cases	43	845	1	59	633	60	660	0	1	63	2,365
	Defendants	30	682	1	33	332	36	274	0	1	55	1,444
Roscommon	Cases	23	810	0	21	626	34	313	0	0	30	1,857
	Defendants	20	513	0	14	363	19	151	0	0	29	1,109
Sligo	Cases	31	555	0	48	321	191	416	0	0	26	1,588
	Defendants	22	397	0	28	156	130	128	0	0	25	886
Thurles	Cases	34	476	2	23	361	37	445	0	0	47	1,425
	Defendants	20	368	1	19	203	26	154	0	0	28	819
Tralee	Cases	14	650	0	44	550	63	258	0	0	26	1,605
	Defendants	11	509	0	38	286	46	116	0	0	26	1,032
Trim	Cases	37	2,432	3	165	2,247	129	493	0	4	43	5,553
	Defendants	20	1,627	3	131	1,224	82	183	0	4	40	3,314
Tuam	Cases	50	538	0	78	397	36	301	0	0	16	1,416
	Defendants	24	369	0	39	235	23	141	0	0	16	847
Tullamore	Cases	82	473	6	203	156	479	333	0	8	41	1,781
	Defendants	45	373	5	147	51	235	143	0	8	24	1,031
Waterford	Cases	83	1,430	27	20	1,513	48	442	0	2	51	3,616
	Defendants	39	917	14	14	741	34	168	0	2	49	1,978
Wexford	Cases	103	1,367	12	171	1,716	46	1,360	21	0	128	4,924
	Defendants	63	1,097	12	96	769	32	487	3	0	112	2,671
Youghal	Cases	86	501	8	8	209	129	382	4	0	49	1,376
	Defendants	57	358	3	6	142	80	167	1	0	46	860
Total	Cases	5,134	65,495	515	4,570	94,333	8,592	42,747	65	202	3,195	224,848
	Defendants	2,768	46,340	336	2,742	42,569	5,232	14,926	16	175	2,050	117,154

Please note: In some cases, the same defendant may appear under more than one category.

Returns for Trial - Road Traffic: **Cases 370 / Defendants 268**

Specific Road Traffic Offences

OUTCOME	DANGEROUS DRIVING		DRINK DRIVING		UNAUTHORISED TAKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES	
	OFFENCES	OFFENDERS	OFFENCES	OFFENDERS	OFFENCES	OFFENDERS
Community Service Order	19	15	51	49	44	42
Detention	92	53	22	21	196	147
Detention Suspended	8	5	1	1	27	25
Dismiss	301	261	962	926	87	85
Fines	1,239	1,136	10,996	10,743	82	78
Imprisonment	348	237	543	510	300	269
Imprisonment Suspended	73	53	238	229	74	61
Peace Bond	34	27	94	90	41	40
Poor Box	0	0	0	0	1	1
Probation	33	23	57	55	85	74
Struck Out	1,127	825	1,266	1,189	356	338
Taken Into Consideration	630	461	1,082	1,005	309	252
Withdrawn	411	317	282	264	69	66
Reduced Charge	781	767	4	4	0	0
Disqualification	1,199	962	11,652	11,277	318	260
Other	426	368	576	556	265	222
Total	6,721	5,510	27,826	26,919	2,254	1,960

Fixed Charged Road Traffic Offences

OUTCOME	2006 Offences	2005 Offences
Dismiss	2,151	1,878
Fines	16,119	10,844
Struck Out	17,547	14,452
Withdrawn	987	792
Taken Into Consideration	5,215	4,774
Other	700	370
Total	42,719	33,110

SUPREME & HIGH COURT

SUPREME COURT

- Priority cases:** Cases where hearings are sought on the grounds of urgency. Priority cases are given dates as quickly as possible – usually within 6 months and in certain cases (e.g. bail appeals) within 2 weeks.
- Short appeals:** Cases where the appeal is short and straightforward enough to be heard on a Friday after the motion list (usually an appeal from an interlocutory order or a short personal injury assessment). The waiting time depends on a number of factors including the length of the motion list, the length of time estimated to hear the appeal and the ability of the parties to be available at short notice. Taking these factors into consideration, the average waiting time for short appeals is 12 months.
- Ordinary appeals:** These cases comprise the ordinary waiting list. The waiting time at the end of December 2006 was 20-22 months. The longer the delay in the ordinary list the more applications are made for priority hearings, which in turn lengthen the waiting time in the ordinary list.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEAL

- Conviction Cases:** 7-9 Months
- Sentence Appeals:** 6-8 Months

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

Typical waiting times for murder and rape trials in the Central Criminal Court was 8 months from the date of return for trial although one rape case was concluded within 4 months of return for trial. The majority of cases in each category were concluded within 12 months of return for trial.

HIGH COURT

- Civil** It was not possible to reduce the waiting times in civil lists in 2006. In some lists the waiting time increased.

High Court

Section 150 Applications (to restrict persons who are directors of insolvent companies in liquidation from acting as director of other companies)	5 weeks
Advance Warning	Not applicable
Asylum (prior to obtaining leave to judicially review decision)	5 weeks
Asylum (following leave to judicially review decision)	5 months
Bail	Date immediately available
Chancery (Monday motions list)	3 weeks
Criminal Assets Bureau	Date immediately available
Circuit Court Appeals	4 weeks
Chancery Cases(certified as ready for trial)	9 months
Common Law (preliminary motions)	4 weeks
Commercial List	Date immediately available
Competition List	2 weeks
Chancery Special Summonses (mortgage suits)	8 weeks
European Arrest Warrant	No waiting time - dealt with as soon as Chief State Solicitor notifies court of receipt of warrant
Extradition List	Not applicable
Family Law List	Within 3 months
Garda Compensation List	17 weeks
Hague Luxembourg Convention (Child Abduction) List	Case must be dealt with within 6 weeks
Hepatitis C Compensation Tribunal - Appeals	Within 3 months
Jury List (civil actions for damages for assault, defamation, wrongful imprisonment, or objections to wardship proceedings)	5 months (wardship matters get priority)
Judicial Review List	15 months (cases taking less than 2 hours will be dealt with sooner)
Master's List	9 weeks (3 weeks for Family Law matters)
Chancery List (miscellaneous)	6 months(cases taking less than 2 hours will be dealt with sooner)
Non Jury List (miscellaneous)	8 months (cases taking less than 2 hours will be dealt with sooner)

High Court

Non Jury (Monday motion list)	3 weeks
Non Jury (Actions certified as ready for trial)	22 months
Cork Personal Injury List	29 months
Dublin Personal Injury List	Maximum 3 weeks
Dundalk Personal Injury List	15 months
Galway Personal Injury List	6 months
Kilkenny Personal Injury List	19 months
Limerick Personal Injury List	28 months
Sligo Personal Injury List	18 months
Waterford Personal Injury List	24 months
Rulings (applications for the approval of settlements of minors' personal injury claims and claims for fatal injury)	1 week

PROBATE OFFICE

Application by Solicitor for grant:	2-3 weeks
Application by personal applicant for grant:	14-16 weeks (for interview)

CENTRAL OFFICE

Processing of applications for judgment and execution orders	3 weeks where no query raised or from discharge of query if raised
Enrolment of miscellaneous deeds e.g. Deed Poll	1 week
Requests for copy documents	3 days
Certification of documents by Registrar of Central Office (e.g. judgment mortgage affidavits)	1 week

OFFICE	CRIMINAL		CIVIL		FAMILY LAW			
	CASES	APPEALS	CASES	APPEALS	JUDICIAL SEPARATION	DIVORCE	NULLITY	APPEALS
CARLOW	9 months	8-9 months	9-10 months	9-10 months	9 months	9 months	9 months	9 months
CARRICK-ON-	6 months	3 months	9 months	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
CASTLEBAR	6 months	3 months	6 months	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
CAVAN	6-9 months	6 months	12 - 18 months	12 -18 months	12 months	12 months	12 months	12 months
CLONMEL	18-24 months	12 months	3-6 months	3-6 months	6 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
CORK	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	9 months	9 months	3-6 months	3-6 months	3-6 months	3-6 months
DUBLIN	10-12 months	6 weeks	5-6 months	6 weeks	5 months	5 months	5 months	2.5 - 3 months
DUNDALK	3-6 months	3 months	18 - 24 months	3 months	6 months	6 months	6 months	3 months
ENNIS	3-6 months	3 months	3-6 months	3 months	6 months	3 months	None	3 months
GALWAY	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings
KILKENNY	18 months	12 months	24 months	18 months	12 months	12 months	12 months	12 months
LETTERKENNY	6 months	3 months	9-18 months	9-18 months	6-8 months	6-8 months	6-8 months	6-8 months
LIMERICK	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	19 months	6 months	6-12 months	6-12 months	6-12 months	3-6 months
LONGFORD	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	3-6 months	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings
MONAGHAN	3-6 months	3 months	9-12 months	6 months	12-18months	12-18months	12-18months	6 months
MULLINGAR	3-9 months	3-6 months	3-9 months	3-6 months	9-12 months (uncontested 3 months)	9-12 months (uncontested 3 months)	9-12 months (uncontested 3 months)	2-3 months
NAAS	12 months	6 months	12 months	12 months	18 months	18 months	18 months	18 months
PORTLAOISE	9-12 months	3 months	12-18 months	3 months	6 months (uncontested 2-6 months)	12 months (uncontested 2-6 months)	12 months (uncontested 2-6 months)	3 months
ROSCOMMON	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	3 months	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings
SLIGO	6 months	Next Sitings	6 months	Next Sitings	6 months	6 months	6 months	Next Sitings
TRALEE	12-18 months	Next Sitings	6 months	6 months	3- 6 months	3 - 6 months	0-3 months	3- 6 months
TRIM	3-6 months	3-6 months	3-6 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	3-6 months	3-6 months	3-6 months
TULLAMORE	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	3 months	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings	Next Sitings
WATERFORD	24 months	3-6 months	18 months	12-18 months	12-18 months	12-18 months	12-18 months	6-18 months
WEXFORD	3-6 months	6 months	24 months	12 months	18-24 months	18-24 months	None	6 months
WICKLOW	12 Months	3 Months	9 Months	6 Months	7-9 Months	7-9 Months	3 Months	3 Months

The term **next sittings** means that the case will be dealt with at the next court sittings in the venue concerned. While cases may be listed for hearing for a particular sitting, unusual circumstances, for example a long criminal trial, may lead to the adjournment of other listed cases to the following sitting. The duration of, and time between, court sittings will vary from circuit to circuit, but in general the Circuit Court sits every two to four months in provincial venues. In Dublin there are daily sittings throughout each term.

OFFICE	CRIMINAL	CIVIL	FAMILY LAW
ATHLONE	1	1	No Delay
BALLINA	1	2	No Delay
BALLINASLOE	No Delay	No Delay	No Delay
BRAY	3	2	3
CARLOW	2	2	1
CARRICK-ON-SHANNON	3	3	1
CASTLEBAR	2	2	2
CAVAN	2	2	1.5
CLONAKILTY	1	1	1
CLONMEL	2	4	1.5 - 2
CORK	2.5 - 3	3	3 - 3.5
DOIRE AN FHÉICH	No Delay	No Delay	No Delay
DONEGAL	3	3	No Delay
DROGHEDA	2	2	1
DUNDALK	3	No Delay	No Delay
ENNIS	1	No Delay	1
FERMOY	2	2	1
GALWAY	2	2	1
KILKENNY	1	1	1
KILLARNEY	2	2	1
LETTERKENNY	6	9	9
LIMERICK	3.5	2	2
LISTOWEL	Up to 1	Up to 1	Up to 1
LONGFORD	1	3	No Delay
LOUGHREA	No Delay	No Delay	No Delay
MALLOW	1	2	1
MONAGHAN	3	3	1
MULLINGAR	1.5	1.5	1
NAAS	4	3	1.5
NENAGH	1	1	1
PORTLAOISE	2.5	2.5	1
ROSCOMMON	No Delay	No Delay	No Delay
SLIGO	1.5	1	Up to 1
THURLES	1	1	1
TRALEE	1	3	2
TRIM	2	1.5	up to 1
TUAM	2	2	1
TULLAMORE	2	1	1
WATERFORD	4	2	4
WEXFORD	11	4	No Delay
YOUGHAL	2.5	2.5	1.5
DUBLIN	4	2	3
DUN LAOGHAIRE	8	1	3
SWORDS	5	2	2



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