

Strasbourg, 10 September 2006

CEPEJ (2006)  
**Version finale**

**Answer to the  
REVISED SCHEME  
FOR  
EVALUATING JUDICIAL SYSTEMS  
2004 Data**

**Réponse à la  
GRILLE REVISEE  
POUR  
L'ÉVALUATION DES SYSTÈMES JUDICIAIRES  
Données 2004**

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**NORTHERN IRELAND/IRLANDE DU NORD**



COUNCIL OF EUROPE      CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 15 September 2005

**CEPEJ (2005) 2 REV 2**

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE  
(CEPEJ)**

**REVISED SCHEME FOR EVALUATING JUDICIAL SYSTEMS**

**adopted by the CEPEJ at its 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 15 – 17 June 2005) and  
approved by the Committee of Ministers on 7 September 2005  
(936<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)**

## Contents

<b>I. Demographic and economic data</b> .....	<b>p. 3</b>
I. A. General information.....	p. 3
I. B. Budgetary data concerning judicial system.....	p. 3
<b>II. Access to Justice and to all courts</b> .....	<b>p. 5</b>
II. A. Legal aid.....	p. 5
II.B. Users of the courts and victims .....	p. 6
II.B.1. Rights of the users and victims .....	p. 6
II.B.2. Confidence of citizens in their justice system.....	p. 8
<b>III. Organisation of the court system</b> .....	<b>p. 9</b>
III.A. Functioning.....	p. 9
III.B. Monitoring and evaluation .....	p. 13
<b>IV. Fair trial</b> .....	<b>p. 15</b>
IV.A. Fundamental principles.....	p. 17
IV.B. Timeframes of proceedings .....	p. 18
IV.B.1. General .....	p. 18
IV.B.2. Civil and administrative cases.....	p. 19
IV.B.3. Criminal cases.....	p. 19
<b>V. Career of judges and prosecutors</b> .....	<b>p. 21</b>
V.A. Appointment and training.....	p. 21
V.B. Practice of the profession .....	p. 24
V.C. Disciplinary procedures .....	p. 25
<b>VI. Lawyers</b> .....	<b>p. 27</b>
<b>VII. Alternative Dispute Resolution</b> .....	<b>p. 30</b>
<b>VIII. Enforcement of court decisions</b> .....	<b>p. 32</b>
VIII.A. Execution of decisions in civil matters .....	p. 32
VIII.B. Enforcement of decisions in criminal matters .....	p. 37
<b>IX. Notaries</b> .....	<b>p. 38</b>



6. Within this budget, can you isolate the following budgets and specify, if appropriate, their amount:

	Yes	Amount
▪ Salaries?		€
▪ IT?	x	7 million € (Source 2002)
▪ Justice expenses borne by the State?		€

Source Northern Ireland Court Service Resource Accounts 2004-2005  
[http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/430CAF60-3912-4C71-A002-01337FE7361E/0/p\\_tp\\_resourceaccounts20042005.pdf](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/430CAF60-3912-4C71-A002-01337FE7361E/0/p_tp_resourceaccounts20042005.pdf)

7. Annual public budget spent on legal aid 93,63 million €

Source Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission 2004/05 Annual Resource Accounts  
<http://www.nilsc.org.uk/uploads/publications/documents/managestat2.pdf>  
 Northern Ireland Services Commission – Financial Memorandum 2004  
<http://www.nilsc.org.uk/uploads/publications/documents/financememo2.pdf>

8. If possible, please specify:

▪ the annual public budget spent on legal aid in criminal cases	36,96 million €
▪ the annual public budget spent on legal aid in other court cases	55,67 million €

Source NI Legal Services Commission 2004/2005 Annual Resource Accounts

9. Annual public budget spent on prosecution system 35,37 million €

Year: 2004/2005

Source: Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland  
<http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/site/default.asp?catid=67&l2=True&l3=True>

10. Bodies formally responsible for budgets allocated to the courts:

	Preparation of the budget (Yes/No)	Adoption of the budget (Yes/No)	Management and allocation of the budget among courts (Yes/No)	Evaluation of the use of the budget (Yes/No)
Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No
Other ministry. Please specify	No	No	No	No
Parliament	No	No	No	No
Supreme Court	No	No	No	No
Judicial Council	No	No	No	No

Courts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Inspection body. Please specify.	No	No	No	No
Other. Please specify	No	No	No	No

\*\*\*

**You can indicate below:**

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your budgetary system

## II. Access to Justice and to all courts

### II. A. Legal aid

#### 11. Does legal aid concern: **Information correct**

	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
Representation in court (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes
Legal advice (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes
Other (Yes/No). Please specify		

#### 12. Number of legal aid cases

- **total** 96,058
- **criminal cases** 26,220
- **other than criminal cases** 69,838

Source **NI Legal Services Commission Management Information 2004/2005**

#### 13. In a criminal case, can any individual who does not have sufficient financial means be assisted by a free of charge (or financed by public budget) lawyer? **No change.**

Yes  No

#### 14. Does your country have an income and asset test for granting legal aid:

- **for criminal cases?** No  Yes/Amount

**For criminal cases No, there is currently an interest of justice merits test but no income and asset test for granting Legal Aid.**

- for other than criminal cases?

**Comment:** Legal advice and assistance is available to any person if his disposable income does not exceed €125 per week; or he is directly or indirectly in receipt of income support or any income based job seeker allowance, without paying a contribution.

Advice and assistance is available with a contribution if disposable income does not exceed €295.50 per week. In either case his disposable capital must not exceed €1455.

Civil Legal Aid is available to any person without contribution whose disposable income does not exceed €4266 and with contributions up to £12,635 or for personal injury cases €13,929.

The disposable capital limit without contributions must not exceed €4366, and with contributions the limit is €9,824 and for personal injury cases €12,459.

**Source:** The Legal Aid (Financial Conditions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004

15. In other than criminal cases, is it possible to refuse legal aid for lack of merit of the case (for example for frivolous action)?

Yes  No

**Comment:**

The “Merits Test” applied is that the applicant must show to have reasonable grounds for bringing or defending or being a party to the proceedings and it must be reasonable in all the circumstances for the applicant to obtain legal aid.

16. If yes, is the decision taken by:
- the court? Yes
  - a body external to the court?  in civil cases
  - a mixed decision-making body (court and external)?

**Source:** 2004

17. In general are litigants required to pay a court tax or fee to start a proceeding at a court of general jurisdiction:

	Yes	No
▪ for criminal cases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ for other than criminal cases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes, are there exceptions? Please specify:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice\\_home/ejn/case\\_to\\_court/case\\_to\\_court\\_nir\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/ejn/case_to_court/case_to_court_nir_en.htm)

18. Is there a private system of legal expense insurance for individuals in order to finance legal proceedings to court?

No

Yes  Please specify:

Some insurance companies include provision to finance legal proceedings in Court.

19. Do judicial decisions have an impact on who bears the legal costs which are paid by the parties during the procedure in:

	Yes	No
▪ criminal cases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ other than criminal cases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

\*\*\*

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your legal aid system

**weblinks:**

<http://www.citizensadvice.co.uk/>

<http://www.lawsoc-ni.org/>

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice\\_home/ejn/legal\\_aid/legal\\_aid\\_nir\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/ejn/legal_aid/legal_aid_nir_en.htm)

II. B. Users of the courts and victims

II. B. 1. Rights of the users and victims

20. Are there official internet sites/portals (e.g. Ministry of Justice, etc.) for the following, which the general public may have free of charge access to:

	Yes	No
▪ legal texts (e.g. codes, laws, regulations, etc.)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet address(es): U.K.:	<a href="http://www.hmso.gov.uk">http://www.hmso.gov.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.parliament.uk">http://www.parliament.uk</a>

▪ case-law of the higher court/s?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet address(es): U.K.:	<a href="http://www.dca.gov.uk">http://www.dca.gov.uk</a>	

▪ other documents (for examples legal forms)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet address(es): Northern Ireland	<a href="http://www.courtsni.gov.uk">http://www.courtsni.gov.uk</a>	

21. Is there an obligation to provide information to the parties concerning the foreseeable timeframe of the proceeding?

Yes  No

If yes, please specify:

There is no obligation to provide information to the parties concerning the foreseeable timeframe of the proceeding, but it is usual in practice to provide such time limits – although in most cases there is nothing specified in a law or a rule.

22. Is there a public and free-of-charge specific information system to inform and to help victims of crimes?

Yes  No



**Comments:**

The Victims Liaison Unit of the Northern Ireland Office do some work in this area.

23. Are there special arrangements to be applied, during judicial proceedings, to the following categories of vulnerable persons:

	Information mechanism (Yes/No)	Hearing modalities (Yes/No)	Procedural rights (Yes/No)	Other (Yes/No). Please specify
Victims of rape	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Victims of terrorism	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Child/Witness/Victim	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Victims of domestic violence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ethnic minorities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Disabled persons	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Juvenile offenders	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	-	-	-	-

24. Does your country have compensation procedure for victims of crimes?

Yes

No

**Comment:**

The Compensation Agency of Northern Ireland is responsible for these issues. Have also a look at the following weblink:

<http://www.compensationni.gov.uk/>

25. If yes, does this compensation procedure consist in:

- a public fund?
- a court order?
- private fund?

Yes

26. If yes, which kind of cases does this procedure concern?

The Compensation Agency was established in April 1992 to support the victims of violent crime by providing compensation to those who sustain loss as a result of actions taken under emergency provisions legislation. We carry out this work on behalf of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.  
Our [charter](#) includes the administration of the [criminal injuries](#), [criminal damages](#), and [Terrorism Act 2000](#) compensation schemes and we operate these schemes in accordance with our [framework document](#) and [corporate and business plan](#).  
We recognise the trauma and difficulties suffered by victims of violent crime and we aim to provide you with a service which is efficient, sensitive and confidential.

27. For victims, are there studies to evaluate the recovery rate of the compensation awarded by courts?

No   
Yes  Please specify:

**II. B.2. Confidence of citizens in their justice system**

28. Is there a system for compensating users in the following circumstances:

	Yes	No
▪ excessive length of proceedings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ wrongful arrest?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ wrongful condemnation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes, please specify (fund, daily tariff):

[http://www.legalappeal.co.uk/pages/justice/compensation\\_for\\_wrongful\\_imprisonment.php](http://www.legalappeal.co.uk/pages/justice/compensation_for_wrongful_imprisonment.php)

29. Does your country have surveys on users or legal professionals (judges, lawyers, officials, etc.) to measure public trust and satisfaction with the services delivered by the judiciary system?

Yes  No

If possible, please specify their titles, how to find these surveys, etc:

Institute for Public Policy Research:  
<http://www.ippr.org.uk/articles/archive.asp?id=1549&fID=55>

30. If yes, please specify:

	Through systematic surveys (Yes/No)	Through ad hoc surveys (Yes/No)
--	--	------------------------------------

Surveys at national level		
Surveys at court level		Yes

31. Is there a national or local procedure for making complaints about the performance of the judicial system?

Yes  No

Source: [http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/D72A09E4-BFF1-47B6-95B7-526163DEB22D/0/p\\_ucs\\_complaintsV6.pdf](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/D72A09E4-BFF1-47B6-95B7-526163DEB22D/0/p_ucs_complaintsV6.pdf)

32. If yes, please specify:

	Time limit to respond (Yes/No)	Time limit for dealing with the complaint (Yes/No)
Court concerned	Yes	Yes
Higher court	Yes	Yes
Ministry of Justice	Yes	Yes
High Council of Justice	Yes	Yes
Other external organisations (e.g. Ombudsman)	No	No

Source: <http://www.dca.gov.uk/legalsys/complain.htm#4d>

Can you give information elements concerning the efficiency of this complaint procedure?

**weblinks:**

<http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/AboutUs/Making+a+Complaint/>  
[http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/15656591-24D2-4402-9089-8D19703D7BBA/0/p\\_ucs\\_complaint.pdf](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/15656591-24D2-4402-9089-8D19703D7BBA/0/p_ucs_complaint.pdf)  
[http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/D72A09E4-BFF1-47B6-95B7-526163DEB22D/0/p\\_ucs\\_complaintsV6.pdf](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/D72A09E4-BFF1-47B6-95B7-526163DEB22D/0/p_ucs_complaintsV6.pdf)

**II. Organisation of the court system**

**III. A. Functioning**

33. Total number of courts (administrative structure):

- first instance courts of general jurisdiction **22**

Source **Northern Ireland Office – Figure of 2004**

- specialised first instance courts **2 additional specialised courts**

Source Northern Ireland Office – Figure of 2004

Please specify the different areas of specialisation (and, if possible, the number of courts concerned):

1 x Court for Appeals to the Social Security Commissioner  
1 x Court for Enforcement of Judgments

Year: 2004  
Source: Department for Constitutional Affairs  
Northern Ireland Office

34. Total number of courts (geographic locations) 7 regions with 21 courthouses

Source: Northern Ireland Court Service  
[http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/653113B4-3AAA-4616-A051-36EC853EB52C/0/p\\_scs\\_divisions\\_with\\_cover\\_AUG2005\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/653113B4-3AAA-4616-A051-36EC853EB52C/0/p_scs_divisions_with_cover_AUG2005_FINAL.pdf)

35. Number of first instance courts competent for a case concerning:

- a debt collection for small claims

Please specify what is meant by small claims in your country:

- a dismissal
- a robbery

36. Number of professional judges sitting in courts 62  
(present the information in full time equivalent and for permanent posts)

Source 2004

37. Number of professional judges sitting in courts on an occasional basis and who are paid as such:

- gross figure
- if possible, in full time equivalent

Source

Please specify:

38. **Number of non-professional judges (including lay judges) who are not remunerated but who can possibly receive a simple defrayal of costs**

Year: 2004

Source: Northern Ireland Office

**Comment:**

There are no full time non-professional judges in Northern Ireland. However, there are 78 deputy judges who may be called upon on an ad hoc basis. There are also 879 Justices of Peace and 143 Lay Panel Members who may be called upon to provide judicial assistance. The latter two roles are due to be consolidated in a new Lay Magistracy role in the course of 2004.

39. **Does your judicial system include trial by jury with the participation of citizens?**

No

Yes

For which type of case(s)?

**If possible, number of citizens who were involved in such juries for the year 2004?**

**NOT APLICABLE!**

40. **Number of non-judge staff who are working in courts**   
(present the information in full time equivalent and for permanent posts)

Year: 2004

Source: Northern Ireland Office

41. **If possible, could you distribute this staff according to the 3 following categories:**

- non-judge staff whose task is to assist the judges (case file preparation, assistance during the hearing, keeping the minutes of the meetings, helping to prepare the decisions) such as registrars:
- staff in charge of different administrative tasks as well as of the management of the courts (human resources management, material and equipment management, including computer systems, financial and budgetary management, training management):
- technical staff:

42. **In courts, do you have non-judge staff entrusted with judicial or quasi-judicial tasks having autonomous competence and whose decisions could be subject to appeal (such as German and Austrian Rechtspfleger):**

No

Yes

Number of staff

43. **Number of public prosecutors** 300 total PPS staff  
 (present the information in full time equivalent and for permanent posts) of whom 100 are judges

Source **Public Prosecution Service**  
<http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/site/default.asp?CATID=8>

44. **Do you have persons who have similar duties as public prosecutors?**

No   
 Yes  **Please specify:**

45. **Is the status of prosecutors:**

- independent within the judiciary?
- independent from the judiciary ?
- under the authority of the Ministry of Justice?

Yes

46. **Number of staff (non prosecutors) attached to the public prosecution service**

300 total PPS staff

(present the information in full time equivalent and for permanent posts)

Source **Public Prosecution Service**

47. **Who is entrusted with the individual court budget?**

	Preparation of the budget (Yes/No)	Arbitration and allocation (Yes/No)	Day to day management of the budget (Yes/No)	Evaluation and control of the use of the budget (Yes/No)
Management Board	-	-	-	-
Court President	-	-	-	-
Court administrative director	-	-	-	-
Head of the court clerk office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other. Please specify	-	-	-	-

48. In general, do the courts in your country have computer facilities?

Yes

No

49. What are the computer facilities used within the courts?

Functions	Facilities	100% of courts	+50% of courts	-50% of courts	- 10 % of courts
Direct assistance to the judge/court clerk	Word processing	X			
	Electronic data base of jurisprudence	X			
	Electronic files	X			
	E-mail	X			
	Internet connection	X			
Administration and management	Case registration system	X			
	Court management information system	X			
	Financial information system				
Communication between the court and the parties	Electronic forms	X			
	Special Website	X			
	Other electronic communication facilities	X			

50. Is there a centralised institution which is responsible for collecting statistical data regarding the functioning of the courts and judiciary?

No

Yes

Please specify the name and the address of this institution:

NIO - Statistics Research Branch  
 Northern Ireland Office  
 Room G34  
 Massey House  
 Stormont Estate  
 Belfast BT4 3SX

\*\*\*

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- **the characteristics of your judicial system**

**MUCH TOO GENERAL!!! Need to be specified!**

### III. B. Monitoring and evaluation

51. Are the courts required to prepare an annual activity report?

Yes

No

52. Do you have a regular monitoring system of court activities concerning the:

- |                              | Yes | No |  |
|------------------------------|-----|----|--|
| ▪ number of incoming cases?  | X   |    |  |
| ▪ number of decisions?       | X   |    |  |
| ▪ number of postponed cases? | X   |    |  |
| ▪ length of proceedings?     | X   |    |  |
| ▪ other?                     |     |    |  |

Please specify:

-

53. Do you have a regular evaluation system of the performance of the court?

- No   
Yes  Please specify:

54. Concerning court activities, have you defined:

- performance indicators? Yes  No

Please specify the 4 main indicators for a proper functioning of justice:

- targets? Yes  No

Please specify who is responsible for setting the targets:

- |                      | Yes | No |
|----------------------|-----|----|
| - executive power?   | X   |    |
| - legislative power? | X   |    |
| - judicial power?    |     |    |
| - other?             | X   |    |

Please specify:

The Government is responsible for setting these targets.

Please specify the main objectives applied:

Source

55. Which authority is responsible for the evaluation of the performances of the courts:

- |                                  | Yes | No |
|----------------------------------|-----|----|
| ▪ the High Council of judiciary? |     |    |
| ▪ the Ministry of justice?       |     | X  |
| ▪ an Inspection body?            |     | X  |
| ▪ the Supreme Court?             |     | X  |
| ▪ an external audit body?        |     |    |
| ▪ other?                         |     | X  |

Please specify:

Northern Ireland Court Service



56. Does the evaluation system include quality standards concerning judicial decisions?

No  
Yes

Please specify:

Source

57. Is there a system enabling to measure the backlogs and to detect the cases which are not processed within an acceptable timeframe for:

	Yes	No
▪ civil cases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ criminal cases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ administrative cases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

58. Do you have a way of analysing queuing time during court procedures?

No  
Yes

Please specify:

59. Do you monitor and evaluate the performance of the prosecution services?

No  
Yes

Please specify:

The Public Prosecution Service is in charge of this issue.

\*\*\*

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your court monitoring and evaluation system

weblink:

<http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/site/default.asp>

#### IV. Fair trial

##### IV. A. Fundamental principles

60. Is there in your judicial system:

- a right for an interpreter for all those within your jurisdiction who cannot understand or speak the language used in court?

Yes  No

- the right to have reasons given for all prisons sentences?

Yes  No

- for all cases, an effective remedy to a superior jurisdiction?

Yes  No

61. Which is the percentage of judgements in first instance criminal cases in which the suspect

is not actually present or represented?

**NOT APPLICABLE!**

Source           

62. Is there a procedure to effectively challenge a judge if a party consider he/she is not impartial?

No             
Yes   x          

If possible, number of successful challenges (in a year): **NOT POSSIBLE!**

63. Please give the following data 2003 and 2004 concerning the number of cases regarding the violation of Article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights:

**This is not available**

		Cases communicated by the Court		Cases declared inadmissible by the Court		Friendly settlements		Judgements establishing a violation		Judgements establishing a non violation	
		2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Criminal proceedings	Article 6§1 (equity)										
	Article 6§1 (duration)										
	Article 6§2										
	Article 6§3a										
	Article 6§3b										
	Article 6§3c										
	Article 6§3d										
Civil proceedings	Article 6§1 (equity)										
	Article 6§1 (duration)										
	Article 6§1 (non execution only)										

Source           

**IV.B. Timeframes of proceedings**  
**IV. B. 1. General**

64. Are there specific procedures for urgent matters in:

	Yes	No
▪ civil cases?	x	
▪ criminal cases?	x	
▪ administrative cases?	x	

65. Are there simplified procedures for:

- |                                    |                                     |                          |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                    | Yes                                 | No                       |
| ▪ civil cases (small claims)?      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ criminal cases (petty offences)? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ administrative cases?            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Is it possible for a second instance court to send back a case to a first instance court for a new examination

Yes  No

66. Do courts and lawyers have the possibility to conclude agreements on modalities for processing cases (presentation of files, binding timeframes for lawyers to submit their conclusions and dates of hearings)?

No   
 Yes  Please specify:

IV. B. 2. Civil and administrative cases

67. Total number of civil cases in courts (litigious and not litigious):

Please specify the main types of cases:

Civil cases: Chancery, Queen’s Bench, Civil Bills and Small Claims  
 Administrative cases: Default judgements for Queen’s Bench, Civil Bills and Small Claims

Source

69. Litigious administrative and civil cases in courts – please complete this table concerning the number of cases/length of proceedings/pending cases and specify definitions of incoming cases, starting and ending point of length and pending cases:

		Civil cases	Administrative cases	Divorce	Employment dismissal
Total number (1st instance)	Incoming cases	28,062	-	2,808	Department of employment and learning
	Decisions on the merits	24,407	9480	2,697	Department of employment and learning
	Percentage of decisions subject to appeal in a higher court	2%	Not available	<1%	Department of employment and learning

	Pending cases by 1 January 2005	9,364	Not available	2805	Department of employment and learning
	Percentage of pending cases of more than 3 years	Not available	Not available	Not available	Department of employment and learning
Average length (from date of lodging of court proceedings*)	Chancery	24 weeks	Not available	32 weeks from received to disposed	Department of employment and learning
	Queen's Bench	138 weeks	15 weeks	-	Department of employment and learning
	Civil Bills Small Claims	38 weeks 17 weeks	13 weeks 17 weeks	-	Department of employment and learning

\* If you cannot calculate the average length from the date of lodging of court proceedings, how do you calculate length of proceedings? Length of time is calculated for each main area from date received in the Court to final date of disposal. During 2004, NICtS moved to a new operational system. This meant that there were two stats systems in place during 2004. For ease of calculation, length of time is based on provisional figures from 2005.

Where appropriate, please specify the specific procedure as regards divorce:

Have a look at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice\\_home/ejn/divorce/divorce\\_nir\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/ejn/divorce/divorce_nir_en.htm)

Source [European Judicial Network Website](#), link, see above

#### IV. B. 3. Criminal cases

68. Please describe the role and powers of the prosecutor in the criminal procedure:

	Yes	No
▪ to conduct or supervise police investigation?	x	
▪ to conduct investigation?	x	
▪ when necessary, to demand investigation measures from the judge?	x	
▪ to charge?	x	
▪ to present the case in the court?	x	
▪ to propose a sentence to the judge?	x	
▪ to appeal?		x
▪ to supervise enforcement procedure?		x
▪ to end the case by dropping it without the need for a judicial decision?		x
▪ to end the case by imposing or negotiating a penalty without a judicial decision?		x
▪ other significant powers?	x	

Please specify:

Have a look at the following weblink:

<http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/site/default.asp?catid=87&l2=True&l3=True>

69. Does the prosecutor also have a role in civil and/or administrative cases?

No  
Yes

x

Please specify:

--

**70. Functions of the public prosecutor in relation to criminal cases– please complete this table:**

		Total number of 1st instance criminal cases
Received by the public prosecutor		70,000
Discontinued by the public prosecutor	In general	
	Because the offender could not be identified	
	Due to the lack of an established offence or a specific legal situation	
Concluded by a penalty, imposed or negotiated by the public prosecutor		
Charged by the public prosecutor before the courts		

Source

**71. Criminal cases in courts – please complete this table concerning the number of cases/length of proceedings/pending cases and specify definitions of incoming cases, starting and ending point of length and pending cases:**

		Criminal cases	Robbery cases	Intentional homicides
Total number (1st instance)	Incoming cases			
	Judicial decisions			
	Convicted persons			
	Acquitted persons			
	Percentage of decisions subject to appeal in a higher court			
	Pending cases by 1 January 2005			
	Percentage of pending cases of more than 3 years			
Average length*(from the date of official charging)	1st instance decision			
	2nd instance decision			
	Total procedure			

\* If you cannot calculate the average length from the date of official charging, how do you calculate length of proceedings?

Source

\*\*\*

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your system concerning timeframes of proceedings

See the following weblink:

## V. Career of judges and prosecutors

### V. A. Appointment and training

72. Are judges initially/at the beginning of their career recruited and nominated by:

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
|  | Yes                                 |
| ▪ a body composed of members of the judiciary?                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| ▪ a body composed of members external to the judiciary?                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| ▪ a body composed of members of the judiciary and external to the judiciary? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Comment:

The Justice Northern Ireland Act 2002 provided for a Judicial Appointments Commission which would have responsibility for judicial appointments. Legislation is being brought forward to set up a Commissioner for Judicial Appointments pre-devolution to have the responsibility of bringing justice matters to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Currently appointments are made via an open and transparent recruitment system.

73. Are prosecutors initially/at the beginning of their carrier recruited and nominated by:

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
|  | Yes                                 |
| ▪ a body composed of members of the prosecution system?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ a body composed of members external to the prosecution system?                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| ▪ a body composed of members of the prosecution system and external to the prosecution system? | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

74. Is the mandate given for an undetermined period for:

- |                |                                     |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                | Yes                                 | No                                  |
| ▪ judges?      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| ▪ prosecutors? | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Are there exceptions ? Please specify:

If no, what is the length of the mandate:

Is it renewable?

- |              |                          |                          |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|              |                          | Yes                      | No                       |
| ▪ of judges? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- of prosecutors? individually determinable x

\*\*\*

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of the selection and nomination procedure of judges and prosecutors

The establishment of a Judicial Appointments Commission was central to the recommendations of the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice Review. It heralds radical changes to the arrangements for the selection of judges in Northern Ireland. From today, the Commission will undertake responsibility from me for organising, overseeing and making recommendations on whom to appoint as judges, for judicial appointments up to the level of High Court judge. The Commission will make the appointment process more open, more transparent, and it will work towards a judiciary that is reflective of the whole community in Northern Ireland. This new, better system will give the people of Northern Ireland greater confidence in the way their judiciary are appointed. It is my pleasure to introduce the Commission members today. The Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Sir Brian Kerr, will Chair the Commission, and he will be supported by twelve other members.

Source:

<http://www.dca.gov.uk/speeches/2005/lc140605.htm>

Concerning prosecutors have a look at the following weblink:

<http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/site/default.asp?CATID=8>

**75. Nature of the training of judges:**

	Compulsion (Yes/No)		Frequency (Yes/No)	
Initial training	Compulsory	<b>Yes</b>		
	Highly recommended			
	Optional			
General in-service training	Compulsory	<b>Yes</b>	Annual	
	Highly recommended		Regular	<b>Yes</b>
	Optional		Occasional	
In-service training for specialised functions (e.g. judge for economic or administrative issues)	Compulsory	<b>Yes</b>	Annual	
	Highly recommended		Regular	<b>Yes</b>
	Optional		Occasional	
In-service training for specific functions (e.g. head of court)	Compulsory	<b>Yes</b>	Annual	
	Highly recommended		Regular	<b>Yes</b>
	Optional		Occasional	

**76. Nature of the training of prosecutors:**

	Compulsion (Yes/No)		Frequency (Yes/No)	
Initial training	Compulsory	<b>Yes</b>		
	Highly recommended			
	Optional			

General in-service training	Compulsory	Yes	Annual	
	Highly recommended		Regular	Yes
	Optional		Occasional	
Specialised in-service training	Compulsory	Yes	Annual	
	Highly recommended		Regular	Yes
	Optional		Occasional	

\*\*\*

*You can indicate below:*

- *any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above*
- *the characteristics of your training system for judges and prosecutors*

### Training and development

The aims and objectives of the Board are to provide suitable and effective programmes of practical studies for full and part time members of the judiciary and to improve upon the system of disseminating information to them. In order to protect judicial independence and in particular to ensure that sectional interests are not brought to bear on the judiciary through the training events, the Board is “judge driven”.

The Board currently aims to provide a mixture of ten events and workshops per term, to meet the needs of judiciary at all levels.

Members of the judiciary are also invited to attend courses organised and run by the [Judicial Studies Board in England and Wales \(JSB\)](#) and the [Judicial Studies Committee \(JSC\)](#) in Scotland.

The Board is a founder member of the [European Judicial Training Network \(EJTN\)](#) and members of the judiciary attend conferences in a number of other jurisdictions to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Source: [http://www.jsbni.com/Home/JSB\\_Header.htm](http://www.jsbni.com/Home/JSB_Header.htm)

See also: [http://www.ejtn.net/www/en/html/nodes\\_main/4\\_1949\\_208/5\\_1585\\_32.htm](http://www.ejtn.net/www/en/html/nodes_main/4_1949_208/5_1585_32.htm)

### V. B. Practice of the profession

77. Gross annual salary of a first instance professional judge at the beginning of his/her career

High Court Judge	£155,404	Resident Magistrate	£93,483
District Judge	£93,483	County Court Judge	£125,803

Year: 2004

Source: RMB Northern Ireland Court Service

78. Gross annual salary of a judge of the Supreme Court or of the highest appellate court



Lord Justice of Appeal in Ordinary                      £175,671  
 Year: 2004  
 Source: RMB Northern Ireland Court Service

**79. Gross annual salary of a public prosecutor at the beginning of his/her career**

Between 35,660 € and 74,852 € (depending on grade and seniority)

Year: 2004

Source Public Prosecution Service

<http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/site/default.asp?CATID=63>

**80. Gross annual salary of a public prosecutor of the Supreme Court or of the highest appellate court**

See question 81.

**81. Do judges and public prosecutors have additional benefits?**

	Judges (Yes/No)	Public prosecutors (Yes/No)
Reduced taxation	No	No
Special pension		
Housing	No	No
Other financial benefit (If yes, please specify)		

Sources: <http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/site/default.asp?CATID=63>

**82. Can judges or prosecutors combine their work with any of the following other professions?**

	Judges			Prosecutors		
	Yes with remuneration	Yes without remuneration	No	Yes with remuneration	Yes without remuneration	No
Teaching						
Research and publication						
Arbitrator						
Consultant						
Cultural function						
Other function to specify						

**83. Do judges receive bonus based on the fulfilment of quantitative objectives relating to the delivering of judgments?**

No     

Yes       Please specify:

## V. C. Disciplinary procedures

### 84. Types of disciplinary proceedings and sanctions against judges and prosecutors:

		Judges	Prosecutors
Reasons for disciplinary procedures	Total number	0	0
	Breach of professional ethics (Yes/No) If yes, please specify the number	No	No
	Professional inadequacy (Yes/No) If yes, please specify the number	No	No
	Criminal offence (Yes/No) If yes, please specify the number	No	No
	Other (Yes/No) If yes, please specify	No	No
	Types of sanctions	Total number	0
Reprimand (Yes/No) If yes, please specify the number		No	No
Suspension (Yes/No) If yes, please specify the number		No	No
Dismissal (Yes/No) If yes, please specify the number		No	No
Fine (Yes/No) If yes, please specify the number		No	No
Other (Yes/No) If yes, please specify		No	No

\*\*\*

**You can indicate below:**

- **any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above**
- **the characteristics of your system concerning disciplinary procedures for judges and prosecutors**

## VI. Lawyers

### 85. Number of lawyers practising in your country

552 barristers

Year: 2004

Source: Database held by the General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland

86. Does this figure include legal advisors (solicitors or in-house counsellor) who cannot represent their clients in court?

Yes  No

87. Do lawyers have a monopoly of representation:

	Monopoly (Yes/No)		If no, possible representation by (Yes/No)	
Civil cases*			Member of family	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Trade Union	<input type="checkbox"/>
			NGO	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criminal cases*	Defendant		Member of family	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Trade Union	<input type="checkbox"/>
			NGO	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Victim		Member of family	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Trade Union	<input type="checkbox"/>
			NGO	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administrative cases*			Member of family	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Trade Union	<input type="checkbox"/>
			NGO	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

\* If appropriate, please specify if it concerns first instance and appeal.

88. Is the lawyer profession organised through?

- a national bar?
- a regional bar?
- a local bar?

Yes

Please specify:

Yes, there is the Law Society of Northern Ireland for solicitors and the Bar of Northern Ireland for barristers.

89. Is there a specific initial training or examination to enter the profession of lawyer?

Yes  No

90. Is there a mandatory general system for lawyers requiring continuing professional development?

Yes  No

91. Is the specialisation in some legal fields tied with a specific level of training/ qualification/ specific diploma or specific authorisations?

No   
Yes  Please specify:

92. Can users establish easily what the lawyers' fees will be?

Yes  No

**Comment:**

Lawyer's fees are individually negotiated. If litigants think they have been overcharged for a service, the Law Society can intervene and regulate the solicitor's fees.

93. Are lawyers fees:

- regulated by law?
- regulated by Bar association?
- freely negotiated?

**Comment:**

Solicitors fees are freely negotiated but through a Law Society remuneration certificate or court assessment, these fees can be queried. The fee for a solicitors service is a contract between the solicitor and the client.

94. Have quality standards been formulated for lawyers?

Yes  No

95. If yes, who is responsible for formulating these quality standards:

- the bar association?
  - the legislature?
  - other?
  -
- Please specify:

The Law Society of Northern Ireland regulates solicitors in Northern Ireland and will advise customers accordingly if they think they have been overcharged for a service.

96. Is it possible to complain about :

- the performance of lawyers?  No  Yes  Please specify:

**Comment:**  
The Law Society of Northern Ireland monitors and acts upon complaints against solicitors. The Professional Conduct Committee of the Bar of Northern Ireland monitors and acts upon complaints against barristers.

- the amount of fees?  Yes  No

97. Disciplinary proceedings and sanctions against lawyers:

	Yes /No (If yes, please specify the annual number)	
Reasons for disciplinary proceedings	Breach of professional ethics	Yes
	Professional inadequacy	Yes
	Criminal offence	Yes
	Other	
Type of sanctions	Reprimand	Yes
	Suspension	Yes
	Removal	Yes
	Fine	Yes
	Other	

Source:

98. Who is the authority responsible for the disciplinary procedures:

- a professional body? Yes  
 Please specify:

Yes, there is the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal.

- the judge?
- the Ministry of justice?
- other?  Please specify:

\*\*\*

*You can indicate below:*

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your system concerning the organisation of the Bar

**For extensive information see the following weblinks:**

<http://www.barlibrary.com/>  
<http://www.lawsoc-ni.org/index.htm>

## VII. Alternative Dispute Resolution

99. If appropriate, please specify, by type of cases, the organisation of the judicial mediation:

	Compulsion (Yes/No)		Body providing mediation (Yes/No)	
Civil cases	Compulsory stage prior to court proceedings		Private mediator	
			Public or authorised by court body	
			Court	

	Compulsory stage in court proceedings		Judge	
	Ordered by judge in certain cases		Prosecutor	
Family cases	Compulsory stage prior to court proceedings		Private mediator	
			Public or authorised by court body	
			Court	
	Compulsory stage in court proceedings		Judge	
	Ordered by judge in certain cases		Prosecutor	
Administrative cases	Compulsory stage prior to court proceedings		Private mediator	
			Public or authorised by court body	
			Court	
	Compulsory stage in court proceedings		Judge	
	Ordered by judge in certain cases		Prosecutor	
Employment dismissals	Compulsory stage prior to court proceedings		Private mediator	
			Public or authorised by court body	
			Court	
	Compulsory stage in court proceedings		Judge	
	Ordered by judge in certain cases		Prosecutor	
Criminal cases	Compulsory stage prior to court proceedings		Private mediator	
			Public or authorised by court body	
			Court	
	Compulsory stage in court proceedings		Judge	
	Ordered by judge in certain cases		Prosecutor	

**100. Can you provide information about accredited mediators?**

Source: Mediation Northern Ireland

[http://www.mediationnorthernireland.org/d5\\_mediation.htm](http://www.mediationnorthernireland.org/d5_mediation.htm)

**101. Can you provide information about the total number of mediation procedure concerning:**

- **civil cases?**
- **family cases?**
- **administrative cases?**
- **employment dismissals?**



- criminal cases? ■

Source ■

102. Can you give information concerning other alternative dispute resolution (e.g. Arbitration)?  
Please specify:

\*\*\*

*You can indicate below:*

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your system concerning ADR

The Law Society of Northern Ireland has launched a new mediation and conciliation initiative as an alternative to litigation and as a preliminary means of solving primarily business disputes.

The service was formerly inaugurated in the spring of 2002 by Mr Justice Coghlin, who is responsible for the commercial division of the High Court in Belfast, and Mr Brian Currin, the South African lawyer who is an international expert in mediation.

Known as Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), the techniques developed primarily in the United States and are increasingly spreading to other parts of the world. Sue Bryson, Deputy Secretary of the Law Society, said, "As the benefits of Alternative Dispute Resolution are becoming more recognised, many professional bodies like the Law Society are introducing mediation services.

**Advantages**

"The advantages of mediation are a process conducted by neutral professionally trained experts in confidence and without the publicity associated with court proceedings; it can be much faster; it can save huge costs in litigation and finally the relationships between disputing parties can be more readily maintained intact.

"For those who think ADR might be the way to go in a dispute, seek the advice of a solicitor on the possibilities. You may not be able to avoid going to court, but it is always worth looking at other choices."

Source: *The Law Society of Northern Ireland*

[http://www.lawsoc-ni.org/ADR/adr\\_index.htm](http://www.lawsoc-ni.org/ADR/adr_index.htm)

See also [http://www.mediationnorthernireland.org/a1\\_aboutus.htm](http://www.mediationnorthernireland.org/a1_aboutus.htm)

[http://www.mediationnorthernireland.org/d5\\_mediation.htm](http://www.mediationnorthernireland.org/d5_mediation.htm)

<http://www.lawsoc-ni.org/download/adr/Booklet.pdf>

## VIII. Enforcement of court decisions

### VIII. A. Execution of decisions in civil matters

103. Are enforcement agents:

- judges? ■
- bailiff practising as private profession ruled by public authorities? ■
- bailiff working in a public institution? ■ X
- other enforcement agents? ■

Please specify their status:

Enforcement Officers are civil servants employed by the Northern Ireland Court Service, who deal with enforcement of civil judgments through the Enforcement of Judgments Office. The Enforcement of Judgments Office enforces civil judgments of magistrates' courts and county courts (including small claims courts) as well as of the High Court. The legislative provision for this can be found in the Judgments Enforcement (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 and the Judgment Enforcement Rules (Northern Ireland) 1981, as amended. As civil servants their posts are open to all European Union citizens.

*Source: European Judicial Network Website*

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice\\_home/ejn/legal\\_prof/legal\\_prof\\_nir\\_en.htm#4](http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/ejn/legal_prof/legal_prof_nir_en.htm#4).

104. Number of enforcement agents

15

Source

105. 2004 – Enforcement Judgments Office

106. Is there a specific initial training or examination to enter the profession of enforcement agent?

Yes

No

107. Is the profession of enforcement agent organised by?

- a national body?
- a regional body?
- a local body?

Yes

108. Can users establish easily what the fees of the enforcement agents will be?

Yes

No

**Comment:**

See in particular the following weblink:

<http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/Services/Enforcement+of+Judgments+Office/EJO+Fees/>

109. Are enforcement fees:

- regulated by law?
- freely negotiated?

Yes

- based on the value of the judgment debt: individual

110. Is there a body entrusted with the supervision and the control of the enforcement agents?

No

Yes

Which authority is responsible for the supervision and the control of enforcement agents:

- a professional body?
- the judge?
- the Ministry of justice?
- the prosecutor?

Yes



- other?
- Please specify:

The Enforcement of Judgements Office of Northern Ireland Court Service supervises the activities of enforcement agents.

111. Have quality standards been formulated for enforcement agents?

No

Yes

Who is responsible for formulating these quality standards?

The Enforcement of Judgements Office of Northern Ireland Court Service is responsible for formulating these quality standards.

112. What are the main complaints of users concerning the enforcement procedure:

	Yes	No
▪ no execution at all?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ lack of information?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ excessive length?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ unlawful practices?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ insufficient supervision?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ excessive cost?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ other?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

113. Has your country prepared or established concrete measures to change the situation concerning the enforcement of court decisions?

No

Yes

Please specify:

Enforcement of Judgements Office has drafted a consultation document to consider the updating of legislation governing its procedures under The Enforcement of Judgments (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 and Judgement Enforcement Rules (Northern Ireland) 1981.

114. Is there a system measuring the timeframes of the enforcement of decisions :

	Yes	No
▪ for civil cases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ for administrative cases?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

115. As regards a decision on debts collection, can you estimate the average timeframe to notify the decision to the parties which live in the city where the court seats:

	Yes
▪ between 1 and 5 days	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ between 6 and 10 days	<input type="checkbox"/>

- between 11 and 30 days
- more: please specify

Source [http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/AboutUs/Enforcement+of+Judgments+Office/p\\_ejo\\_EJOAboutUs.htm](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/AboutUs/Enforcement+of+Judgments+Office/p_ejo_EJOAboutUs.htm)

**116. Disciplinary proceedings and sanctions against enforcement agents:**

	Yes /No (If yes, please specify the total number)	
Disciplinary proceedings	Breach of professional ethics	Yes
	Professional inadequacy	Yes
	Criminal offence	Yes
	Other	Yes
Sanctions	Reprimand	Yes
	Suspension	Yes
	Dismissal	Yes
	Fine	Yes
	Other	No

\*\*\*

*You can indicate below:*

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your enforcement system of decisions in civil matters

**weblink:**

[http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/AboutUs/Enforcement+of+Judgments+Office/p\\_ejo\\_EJOAboutUs.htm](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/AboutUs/Enforcement+of+Judgments+Office/p_ejo_EJOAboutUs.htm)  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice\\_home/ejn/legal\\_prof/legal\\_prof\\_nir\\_en.htm#4](http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/ejn/legal_prof/legal_prof_nir_en.htm#4).

**VIII. B. Enforcement of decisions in criminal matters**

**117. Is there a judge who has in charge the enforcement of judgments?**

Yes  Please specify his/her functions and activities (e.g. Initiative or control functions):

No  Please specify which authority is entrusted with the enforcement of judgements (e.g prosecutor):

**118. As regards fines decided by a criminal court, are there studies to evaluate the effective recovery rate?**

No   
 Yes  Please specify:

Source:

\*\*\*

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your enforcement system of decisions in criminal matters

## IX. Notaries

119. Is the status of notaries:

- a private one?
- a status of private worker ruled by the public authorities?
- a public one?
- other?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please specify:

Source: *The Law Society of Northern Ireland*  
<http://www.lawsoc-ni.org/notaries.htm>

120. Do notaries have duties:

- within the framework of civil procedure?
- in the field of legal advice?
- to authenticate legal deeds?
- other?

Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes, please specify:

121. Is there a body entrusted with the supervision and the control of the notaries?

No  
Yes

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Which authority is responsible for the supervision and the control of the notaries:

- a professional body?
- the judge?
- the Ministry of justice?
- the prosecutor?
- other?

Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please specify:

The Law Society is responsible for the supervision and control of the notaries.

\*\*\*

**You can indicate below:**

- **any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above**
- **the characteristics of your system of notaries**

**Under the Solicitors (Northern Ireland) Order 1976, all solicitors are commissioners for oaths, which means that they can witness official documents other than those prepared by themselves or their opponents in a case.**

**In addition, there these aare the solicitors in Northern Ireland who are notaries public, and can witness documents for use abroad. The date is the date of appointment.**

Source: <http://www.lawsoc-ni.org/notaries.htm>

[http://www.thenotariessociety.org.uk/public\\_statement.asp](http://www.thenotariessociety.org.uk/public_statement.asp)

- 122. Please indicate main orientations for reform and concrete measures which could improve the quality and the efficiency of your judicial system:**