



**Reference data 2020 (01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020)**

**Start/end date of the data collection campaign : 19/03/2021 - 01/10/2021**

**Objective :**

The CEPEJ decided, at its 35th plenary meeting, to launch the ninth evaluation cycle 2020 – 2022, focused on 2020 data. The CEPEJ wishes to use the methodology developed in the previous cycles to get, with the support of its national correspondents' network, a general evaluation of the judicial systems in the 47 member states of the Council of Europe as well as three observer states (Israel, Morocco and Kazakhstan). This will enable policy makers and judicial practitioners to take account of such unique information when carrying out their activities.

The present questionnaire was adapted by the Working group on evaluation of judicial systems (CEPEJ-GT-EVAL) in view of the previous evaluation cycles and considering the comments submitted by CEPEJ members, observers, experts and national correspondents. The aim of this exercise is to increase awareness of judicial systems in the participating states, to compare the functioning of judicial systems in their various aspects, as well as to have a better knowledge of the trends of the judicial organisation in order to help improve the efficiency of justice. The evaluation questionnaire and the analysis of the results becomes a genuine tool in favour of public policies on justice, for the sake of the European citizens.

**Instruction :**

The ways to use the application and to answer the questions are guided by two main documents:

- User manual
- Explanatory note

While the explanatory note gives definitions and explanations on the CEPEJ evaluation questionnaire and the methodology needed for replying, the User manual is a tool to help you navigate through this application. You can download the Explanatory note as a whole on the CEPEJ website. The specific explanations are also accessible for each question within this application under the tab "Explanatory note". This will serve as immediate consultation tool when answering questions. In case you have any questions related to these documents or on the use of the application, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat.

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## 1. General and financial information

### 1.1. Demographic and economic data

#### 1.1.1. Inhabitants and economic general information



##### 001. Number of inhabitants (if possible on 1 January of the reference year +1)

[ 1 895 500 ]

Comments

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**002. Total of annual public expenditure at state level and where appropriate, public expenditure at regional or federal entity level (in €)**

	Amount
State or federal level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Regional / federal entity level (total for all regions / federal entities)	33 485 190 000 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments Total current and capital expenditure in Northern Ireland has risen by 7.3% over the past two years in sterling £ based on revised figures published by the Office for National Statistics. Exchange rate movements may explain part of the discrepancy.



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**003. Per capita GDP (in €) in current prices for the reference year**

[ 28 524 ]

Comments The figure above relates to the regional GDP estimate published by ONS for Northern Ireland. GVA was used in the previous CEPEJ exercise as regional GDP estimates were not produced for NI at the time. GDP is higher than GVA explaining part of the discrepancy some of which is also due to exchange rate movements and inflation.

**004. Average gross annual salary (in €) for the reference year**

[ 31 491 ]

NA

Comments The figure above relates to median full-time annual earnings in NI in 2020

**005. Exchange rate of national currency (non-Euro zone) in € on 1 January of the reference year +1**

[ 0.8994 ]

Allow decimals : 5

NAP

Comments Bank of England exchange rate data (€1 = £0.8994 at 31 Dec 2020)

**A1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part**

<p>Sources: 1) NISRA - 2020 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland, June 2021                  2) ONS - Country and Regional Public Sector Finances Net Fiscal Balance Tables, May 2021                  3) ONS - Regional economic activity by Gross Domestic Product, UK: 1998 to 2019                  4) NISRA - Northern Ireland Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2020                  5) Bank of England exchange rate data</p>
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**1.1.2 Budgetary data concerning judicial system**

006. Annual (approved and implemented) public budget allocated to the functioning of all courts, in € (without the budget of the public prosecution services and without the budget of legal aid). If you cannot separate the budget allocated to the courts from the budget of public prosecution services and/or the one allocated to legal aid, please go to question 7. If you are able to answer this question 6, please answer NA to question 7.

	Approved budget (in €)	Implemented budget (in €)
<b>TOTAL - Annual public budget allocated to the functioning of all courts (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)</b>	94 405 227 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	88 978 355 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>1. Annual public budget allocated to (gross) salaries</b>	34 523 935 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	35 325 317 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2. Annual public budget allocated to computerisation (2.1 + 2.2)</b>	6 030 276 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	5 781 945 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2.1 Investments in computerisation</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2.2 Maintenance of the IT equipment of courts</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>3. Annual public budget allocated to justice expenses (expertise, interpretation, etc.)</b>	33 841 695 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	30 867 802 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>4. Annual public budget allocated to court buildings (maintenance, operating costs)</b>	19 979 080 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	16 990 161 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>5. Annual public budget allocated to investments in new (court) buildings</b>	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>6. Annual public budget allocated to training</b>	30 241 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	13 130 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>7. Other (please specify)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Please indicate any useful comment to explain the figures provided. If the annual public budget allocated to the functioning of all courts actually implemented is different from the approved annual public budget allocated to the functioning of all courts, please indicate the main reasons for the differences: NICTS budget allocation is a net budget, to take account of income generated for the services provided. The approved budget should actually be €58,480,362 rather than €94,405,227 as shown in the table as approved income which is a negative budget (-€35,924,865), should be deducted from the total. Similarly, the implemented budget should be actually be €62,702,169 instead of €88,978,355 as the implemented income (-€26,276,186) should be deducted from the total). Income is part of NICTS budget. The approved budget is the opening baseline budget whereas the implemented budget is the final approved budget. These will always be different for budget transfers that occur during the in year monitoring round process. NICTS received additional budget allocations from 2018 to 2020 in its opening baseline budget mainly in relation to pension increases, pay and price inflation and other projects including EU Exit, Substance Misuse courts and Gillen. We also received additional COVID funding during 2020 which would be included in the implemented budget.

Any spend in relation to computer related costs have been included in the annual budget allocated to computerisation, there were no new court building investments.

007. If you cannot answer question 6 because you cannot isolate the public budget allocated to courts from the budget allocated to public prosecution services and/or the one allocated to legal aid, please fill in only the appropriate line in the table according to your system:

	Approved budget (in €)	Implemented budget (in €)
Total annual public budget allocated to all courts and the public prosecution services together	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Total annual public budget allocated to all courts and legal aid together	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Total annual public budget allocated to all courts, public prosecution services and legal aid together	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - Please indicate any useful comment to explain the figures provided. If the annual public budget actually implemented is different from the approved annual public budget, please indicate the main reasons for the differences:

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008. Are litigants in general required to pay a court fee to initiate a proceeding at a court of general jurisdiction:

	Litigants required to pay a court fee to initiate a proceeding at a court of general jurisdiction ?
for criminal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, at the beginning of the procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, at a later stage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
for other than criminal cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, at the beginning of the procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, at a later stage <input type="checkbox"/> No

If there are exceptions to the obligation to pay these court fees, could you please provide comments on those exceptions? NICTS operates an exemptions and remissions policy to support those in the payment of court fees where they can demonstrate that they are in receipt of qualifying passported benefits, or, would be placed under financial hardship as a result of paying the court fee. NICTS also partially subsidises (50%) children and family cases and fully subsidises cases relating to domestic violence.

008-1. Please briefly present the methodology of calculation of these court fees:

- The court fees are set on the basis of full cost recovery as per Chapter 6 of Managing Public Money Northern Ireland and include administrative and judicial costs associated with providing the service, including overheads. These court fees can be fixed, variable, semi-variable or semi-fixed depending on the nature of the case and/or associated processes.

The fees for initiating court proceedings follow a tiered structure with application fees to the lower court tier (Magistrates Court) being less than the higher court tiers (County Court and Court of Judicature). Most court fees are a fixed amount, some are within a banded structure based on the amount claimed (contested) and a small number of court fees are variable (based on amount claimed, with upper and lower limits).

**008-2. The amount of court fees requested to commence an action for 3000€ debt recovery:**

[ 145 ]

[ ] NA

[ ] NAP

Comments Small Claims Court - €145 (October 2019 fee rate), Civil Bill - €240 (October 2019 fee rate)

**009. Annual income of court fees received by the State (in €):**

[ 20 525 632 ]

[ ] NA

[ ] NAP

Comments

**012. Annual approved public budget allocated to legal aid, in €.**

	TOTAL	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
<b>TOTAL - Annual approved public budget allocated to legal aid (12.1 + 12.2)</b>	80 955 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	37 625 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	43 330 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>12.1 for cases brought to court (court fees and/or legal representation)</b>	80 955 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	37 625 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	43 330 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>12.2 for cases not brought to court (legal advice, ADR and other legal services)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments The majority of cases progress to court but it is too difficult to split between those that do and don't.

**012-1. Annual implemented public budget allocated to legal aid, in €.**

	TOTAL	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
<b>TOTAL - Annual implemented public budget allocated to legal aid (12-1.1 + 12-1.2)</b>	80 955 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	37 625 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	43 330 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>12-1.1 for cases brought to court (court fees and/or legal representation)</b>	80 955 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	37 625 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	43 330 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>12-1.2 for cases not brought to court (legal advice, ADR and other legal services)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP

If the public budget actually implemented regarding legal aid is different from the annual approved public budget allocated to legal aid, please indicate the main reasons for the differences: The majority of cases progress to court but it is too difficult to split between those that do and don't.

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**012-2. Does legal aid include:**

Legal aid includes:

Coverage of court fees	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Exemption from court fees	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

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**012-3. Do legal aid budgets indicated in Q12 and Q12-1 include:**

	Amount calculated/estimated included
Coverage of court fees	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Exemption from court fees	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments Depending on the nature of a case court fees can be included as part of legal aid payments, we however would not track the breakdown of court fee and non court fee payments.

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**013. Annual (approved and implemented) public budget allocated to the public prosecution services, in €.**

	Approved budget (in €)	Implemented budget (in €)
Total annual public budget allocated to the public prosecution services, in € (including 13.1)	43 217 000 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	42 089 000 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
13.1. Annual public budget allocated to training of public prosecution services	35 030 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	35 030 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Please indicate any useful comment to explain the figures provided. Moreover, if the annual public budget allocated to the public prosecution services actually implemented is different from the approved annual public budget, please indicate the main reasons for the differences: As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the PPS had lower than expected Counsel fee and associated costs over the course of the year resulting in the above saving against the allocated budget.

Annual budgetary fluctuations occur as a result of departmental bids and subsequent allocations across government departments by the Northern Ireland Executive from year to year.

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**014. Authorities formally responsible for the budgets allocated to the courts (multiple options possible):**

Preparation of the total court budget	Adoption/approval of the total court budget	Management and allocation of the budget among the courts	Evaluation of the use of the budget at a national level

<b>Ministry of Justice</b>	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Other ministry</b>	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Parliament</b>	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Supreme Court</b>	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>High Judicial Council</b>	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Courts</b>	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Inspection body</b>	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes (X) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Other</b>	(X) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	(X) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	(X) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	(X) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If "Other Ministry" and/or "Inspection body" and/or "Other", please specify: In April 2010 responsibility for the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICtS) transferred from the Treasury Department to the Northern Ireland Assembly, Department of Justice (DoJ).

**014-0. What are the criteria used to allocate financial resources among courts? Furthermore, please select maximum three main criteria of allocation**

	<b>Criteria used</b>	<b>Main criteria</b>
<b>Previous years' budget costs</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Special needs assessment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Number of judges/non judges' staff</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Number of incoming cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Number of pending cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Number of resolved cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

NAP

Comments - If "Other", please specify The Northern Ireland Secretary of State set out the annual budget allocation for Northern Ireland departments. The NICTS annual budget is confirmed by the DoJ Permanent Secretary. The NICTS Board is responsible for business and

corporate planning and reporting, and the oversight of the functions of NICTS including finance, planning, performance, and policy initiatives. The Finance Committee assists the Board with financial oversight and budgetary control. It is the role of Finance Director to advise the Committee on any material issues concerning financial oversight and budgetary control. The Finance Director is supported by the NICTS Finance team, who along with the relevant business managers across the Agency, monitor the day to day expenditure closely to try and live within the resource and capital allocations provided.

**014-1. Who is entrusted with responsibilities related to the budget within a first instance court?**

	<b>Preparation of the budget</b>	<b>Arbitration and allocation of the budget</b>	<b>Day to day management of the budget</b>	<b>Evaluation and control of the use of the budget</b>
<b>Court President and/or judge(s)</b>	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Head of court administration and/or non-judges</b>	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Mixed body (judge(s) and non-judge(s))</b>	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Other</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If “Other”, please specify. If the responsibilities are different depending on the type/instance of courts, please answer the question for the first instance court of general jurisdiction and describe the differences in the comment box: The Northern Ireland Secretary of State set out the annual budget allocation for Northern Ireland departments. The NICTS annual budget is confirmed by the DoJ Permanent Secretary. The NICTS Board is responsible for business and corporate planning and reporting, and the oversight of the functions of NICTS including finance, planning, performance, and policy initiatives. The Finance Committee assists the Board with financial oversight and budgetary control. It is the role of Finance Director to advise the Committee on any material issues concerning financial oversight and budgetary control. The Finance Director is supported by the NICTS Finance team, who along with the relevant business managers across the Agency, monitor the day to day expenditure closely to try and live within the resource and capital allocations provided.

**A2. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part**

Sources: Question 6, the approved budget is based on the initial 2020/21 budget and the implemented budget is based on the final 2020/21 budget.

**1.1.3 Budgetary data concerning the whole justice system**



**015-1. Annual (approved and implemented) public budget allocated to the whole justice system, in € (this global budget includes the judicial system budget - see 15-2 and other elements of the justice system - see 15-3)**

<b>Approved budget (in €)</b>	<b>Implemented budget (in €)</b>
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<b>Total annual public budget allocated to the whole justice system in €</b>	1 309 078 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	1 307 950 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
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Comments - Please indicate any useful comment to explain the figures provided above and specify if a large portion of the budget allocated to the whole justice system comes from an international organisation. Moreover, if the annual public budget allocated to the whole justice system actually implemented is different from the approved annual public budget, please indicate the main reasons for the differences:

### 015-2. Elements of the judicial system budget (Q6, Q7, Q12, Q13)

	<b>Included</b>
<b>Courts</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No [ ] NAP
<b>Legal aid</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No [ ] NAP
<b>Public prosecution services</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No [ ] NAP

Comments

### 015-3. Other budgetary elements

	<b>Included</b>
<b>Prison system</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No [ ] NAP
<b>Probation services</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No [ ] NAP
<b>High Judicial Council</b>	( ) Yes ( ) No [ X ] NAP
<b>High Prosecutorial Council</b>	( ) Yes ( ) No [ X ] NAP
<b>Constitutional court</b>	( ) Yes ( ) No [ X ] NAP
<b>Judicial management body</b>	( ) Yes ( ) No [ X ] NAP
<b>State advocacy</b>	( ) Yes ( ) No [ X ] NAP
<b>Enforcement services</b>	( ) Yes ( ) No [ X ] NAP

Notariat	( ) Yes ( ) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Forensic services	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Judicial protection of juveniles	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Functioning of the Ministry of Justice	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Refugees and asylum seekers services	( ) Yes ( ) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Immigration Service	( ) Yes ( ) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Some police services (e.g. : transfer, investigation, prisoners' security)	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Other	( ) Yes ( ) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

If "Other", please specify:

### A3. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Department of Justice Budgeting System

## 1.2. Organisation and management of courts and public prosecution services

**015-4. Please describe who has responsibilities for the management of individual courts, what management roles they have, what is their status and their position in the organisational hierarchy of the court concerned.**

- The Courts and Tribunals in Northern Ireland are under the management of the judiciary in relation to the proceedings before them. Judges, Tribunal Chairpersons and Members are appointed by the NI Judicial Appointments Commission which is an independent body.

The Courts and Tribunals are supported by civil servants within Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service who provide administrative functions. NICTS is an agency of the NI Department of Justice.

**015-5. Please describe who has responsibilities for the management of individual public prosecution offices, what management roles they have, what is their status and their position in the organisational hierarchy of the office concerned.**

- The Public Prosecution Service is based across four locations.

There are six legal sections within the PPS, organised largely by case type and / or prosecution work area, and each headed by an Assistant Director who has overall responsibility for decision-making on investigation files and for the conduct of prosecutions in their section. All operate under the direct authority of either the Senior Assistant Director, Serious Crime and Regions or the Deputy Director for Public Prosecutions. All have individual responsibility for delegated budgets for external counsel spend within their area. One of these Assistant Directors has overall responsibility for 3 satellite offices outside of Head Office.

Corporate Services, led by the Senior Assistant Director for Resources and Change, provides a range of professional, technical and other support services.

Max characters value : 10 000

**2. Access to justice and all courts**

**2.1. Legal Aid**

**2.1.1 Scope of legal aid**

**016. Does legal aid apply to:**

	<b>Criminal cases</b>	<b>Other than criminal cases</b>
<b>Representation in court</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Legal advice, ADR and other legal services</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

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**016-1. Please briefly describe the organisation of the legal aid system in your country both before going to court and during court proceedings.**

- Civil legal services provide advice and representation across a wide range of issues and court proceedings. The greatest volume of business is in respect of family matters (including child welfare), personal injury claims, bail applications and advice at police stations in criminal matters. Advice and representation is provided where applicants can demonstrate that they meet financial means and legal merits tests. The assessment of an applicant's means was determined, for the greater part of the year, by the Legal Aid Assessment Office (LAAO), an office of the Department for Communities (DfC). This function transferred from DfC to the Legal Services Agency in 2019. By bringing the function in-house, and thereby amalgamating all civil legal aid services within the one organisation,

this will support the development of a more integrated approach to the delivery and administration of legal aid whilst maximising efficiencies,

Criminal legal aid is granted by the judiciary if applicants before the Magistrates' Courts, County Court on appeal and Crown Court have insufficient means to pay for their own defence and it is in the interests of justice that applicants should be represented. Similar provisions apply to cases before the Criminal Court of Appeal.

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**018. Can legal aid be granted for the fees that are related to the enforcement of judicial decisions (e.g. fees of an enforcement agent)?**

- Yes
- No
- NAP

If yes, please specify: Where court fees are payable in a particular case, solicitor can include the cost of same as a disbursement when submitting their claims for fees.

**019. Can legal aid be granted for other costs (different from those mentioned in questions 16 to 18, e.g. fees of technical advisors or experts, costs of other legal professionals (notaries), travel costs etc.)?**

	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
Legal aid granted for other costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If yes, please specify: Additional costs of expert witnesses, medical reports, legal opinions, travel costs etc. are covered by legal aid on approval of prior authority.

**2.1.2 Information on legal aid**

**020. Please indicate the number of cases for which legal aid has been granted:**

	Total	Cases brought to court	Cases not brought to court
<b>TOTAL</b>	63 587 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	34 559 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	29 028 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>In criminal cases</b>	20 255 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	20 255 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>In other than criminal cases</b>	43 332 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	14 304 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	29 028 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - Please specify when appropriate: \*Total - These numbers refer to the number of criminal and civil certificates issued in the

year 2020-21. This data is from the Legal Services Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2020 - 21.

\*\* Cases brought to court - These numbers refer to the applications granted during 2020/21, excluding for “advice and assistance”, as the grants were for court proceedings.

\*\*\* Cases not brought to court - This numbers refer to the applications granted during 2020/21 for “advice and assistance” as these acts of assistance are not in respect of ongoing court proceedings.

**020-1. Please indicate the timeframes of the procedure for granting legal aid, in relation to the duration from the initial legal aid request to the final approval of the legal aid request:**

	Time in days
<b>Maximum duration prescribed in law/regulation</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Actual average duration</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - Please specify if the envisaged timeframe is set in a statutory law, or in other regulation. Furthermore, if different timeframes are envisaged for criminal and other than criminal cases please provide more information: Applications for advice and assistance are determined by solicitor before advice is given

Applications for non-emergency applications for all other non-criminal representation were processed within the Agency’s target of 80% of properly completed applications within 16 weeks of date of receipt. Depending on the level of service the percentage achieved within 16 weeks ranged from 90.4% to 99%. This data is from the Legal Services Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2020 - 21.

Criminal legal aid is determined by the court upon application by the defendants representative.

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**021. In criminal cases, can individuals who do not have sufficient financial means be assisted by a free of charge (or financed by a public budget) lawyer?**

	Assisted by a free of charge lawyer
<b>Accused individuals</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Victims</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Comments - If yes, please specify: Criminal legal aid is granted by reference to two tests, the means test and the interest of justice test i.e. if the defendants’ means are insufficient to cover the cost and it is in the interests of justice that the defendant is legally represented, then legal aid will be granted.

**022. In criminal cases are these individuals free to choose their lawyer within the framework of the legal aid system?**

	free selection of lawyer
<b>Accused individuals</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

<b>Victims</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
----------------	--

Comments Individuals are free to choose their lawyer but criminal legal aid may apply to people charged with an offence

**023-0. Does your country have an income and assets evaluation for granting full or partial legal aid?**

- Yes
- No

Comments - Please indicate if any other criteria are taken into account for the granting of legal aid and any comment that could explain the data provided above: The figures above differ in personal injury cases as follows: Full legal aid to the applicant for other than criminal cases and Partial legal aid to the applicant for other than criminal cases- Annual income value €10,995; Assets Value €8,560.

Criminal cases – there is no fixed means test for income or capital, this is decided upon by the discretion of the Magistrate or Judge.

Non-criminal cases – the upper limits for applicants under the Civil Legal Aid Scheme for Representation Higher are detailed above.

These limits apply after a financial assessment has been completed by the Legal Services Agency.

Where a client’s weekly disposable income does not exceed £234 and their capital does not exceed £1,000, they shall be eligible for advice and assistance or representation (lower courts). These financial assessments are carried out by the solicitor. This information has been obtained from the Legal Services Agency.

**023. If yes, please specify in the table:**

	Annual income value (for one person), (in €)	Assets value (for one person), (in €)
<b>Full legal aid to the applicant for criminal cases</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Full legal aid to the applicant for other than criminal cases</b>	9 937 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	6 750 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Partial legal aid to the applicant for criminal cases</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Partial legal aid to the applicant for other than criminal cases</b>	9 937 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	6 750 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

**024. Is it possible to refuse legal aid for lack of merit of the case (for example for frivolous action or no chance of success)?**

- Yes
- No

Comments - If yes, please explain the exact criteria for denying legal aid: A person applying for civil legal aid must satisfy a ‘merits test’. They must show that they have reasonable grounds for taking, defending or being a party to the proceedings in question. Furthermore they may be refused legal aid, if in the particular circumstances of the case, it appears unreasonable that they should do so.

**025. Is the decision to grant or refuse legal aid taken by:**

- the judge(s) dealing with the main case
- another judge or official
- an authority external to the court

( X ) several authorities (court and external bodies)

Comments The court grants legal aid for people needing legal advice and representation if a case goes to court

**026. Is there a private system of legal expense insurance enabling individuals (this does not concern companies or other legal persons) to finance court proceedings?**

( X ) Yes

( ) No

Comments - If appropriate, please inform about the current development of such insurances in your country; is it a growing phenomenon? Yes 'before the event' legal expenses insurance is available as a standard add-on with, for example, house insurance policies. There is also limited coverage available for 'after the event insurance'.

**027. Can judicial decisions direct how legal costs, paid by the parties during the procedure, will be shared:**

	Judicial decisions direct how legal costs will be shared
in criminal cases	( ) Yes ( X ) No
in other than criminal cases	( X ) Yes ( ) No

Comments - If no, please specify how legal costs are distributed: Criminal cases has been confirmed as 'no' as the remuneration arrangements are proscribed in rules. In civil cases in certain cases, usually divorce proceedings the court can direct that one party pay some or all of the costs of their opponent.

**B1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part**

Sources: The source is indicated for each of the questions as being the Legal Services Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2020/21 and Business Plan 2021/22

**2.2. Court users and victims**

**2.2.1 Rights of the users and victims**

**028. Are there official internet sites/portals (e.g. Ministry of Justice, Judicial Council etc.) where general public may have free-of-charge access to the following:**

	Yes, internet adresse(es)	No
Legal texts (e.g. codes, laws, regulations, etc.)	( X ) <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk">http://www.legislation.gov.uk</a>	( )
Case-law of the higher court/s	( X ) <a href="http://www.judiciaryni.uk">http://www.judiciaryni.uk</a>	( )
Information about the judicial system (organisation of courts, court proceedings, etc)	( )	( X )

Other documents (e.g. forms, downloadable forms, online registration forms)	( X ) <a href="http://www.courtsni.gov.uk">http://www.courtsni.gov.uk</a>	( )
---	--	-----

Comment - Please specify what documents and information are included in “Other documents” A range of court documents are specified in court rules which can be accessed on <http://www.legislation.gov.uk>

- a) Contains case law
- b) Provides for on-line processing of a range of court business
- c) Provides information leaflets and court forms <http://www.courtsni.gov.uk>

**029. Is there an obligation to provide information to the parties concerning the foreseeable timeframes of their proceedings?**

- ( ) Yes, always
- ( ) No
- ( X ) Yes, only in some specific situations

Comment - If “Yes, only in some specific situations”, please specify: Yes, depending on the court proceedings the timeframe of proceedings may be specified in legislation

**030. Is there a public and free-of-charge information system for providing information and facilitating access to justice:**

	Information system
<b>General for citizens</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interactive chat <input type="checkbox"/> In-person (physical access on site) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Specific for victims of offences</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interactive chat <input type="checkbox"/> In-person (physical access on site) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Specific for minors (child-friendly systems)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interactive chat <input type="checkbox"/> In-person (physical access on site) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comment - Please provide more information on these systems. Furthermore, please specify how this assistance is provided. Victim Support Northern Ireland is the charity which helps people affected by any type of crime. They provide emotional support, information and practical help to victims, witnesses and others affected by crime (see <http://www.victimsupportni.co.uk>)

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



	Information mechanism	Special arrangements in hearings	Other specific arrangements
<b>Victims of sexual violence/rape</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>Victims of terrorism</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>Minors (witnesses or victims)</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>Victims of domestic violence</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>Ethnic minorities</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>Persons with disabilities</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>Juvenile offenders</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>Other (e.g. victims of human trafficking, forced marriage, sexual mutilation)</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No

Comments - If “Other vulnerable person” and/or “Other specific arrangements”, please specify: For all witnesses in proceedings, special measures may be applied for which may (depending on the circumstances) permit:

Evidence to be given by way of video link

Screened evidence

Evidence in chief by video evidence

Electronic evidence presentation

Interpreters (including language and for those with a disability)

Court appointed registered intermediaries for people with communication and language difficulties

Special arrangements exist for juveniles (called Youth in Northern Ireland) where the court sits without the usual formality of wigs and gowns, and the defendants are not required to sit in the dock.

**031-0. If there are special arrangements for minors, what are the settings / tools / facilities / practises employed to protect them when they participate in judicial proceedings?**

[ X ] Special and child-adequate preparation for participation in trials / lawsuits (explaining in a child-friendly manner the proceedings)

[ X ] Special room in court designated for child-friendly hearings

[ X ] Special person / team of trained professional(s) (such as psychologists) to accompany a minor throughout the proceedings

[ X ] Special ways to communicate and explain meaning of court decisions

[ ] Interagency/multidisciplinary structure such as “Children's Houses”

[ ] Other, please specify .....

[ ] NAP

Comment

**031-1. What are the main criteria for a minor to initiate a proceeding, take procedural actions in his/her own name or to be a witness?**

Civil proceedings	Criminal proceedings
-------------------	----------------------

<b>Capacity to initiate a proceeding and take other procedural actions in his/her own name</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Age threshold [Comment] <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptions from the threshold <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity for discernment <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Age threshold [Comment] <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptions from the threshold <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity for discernment <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>To be a witness</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Age threshold [Comment] <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptions from the threshold <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity for discernment <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Age threshold [Comment] <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptions from the threshold <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity for discernment <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comment - Please specify if you selected answers “Exceptions from the threshold” and “Other”. If your system distinguishes between full and limited capacity to take legal actions, please describe the basis for this differentiation (age, capacity for discernment, type of action, type of cases, other).

**031-2. If a minor cannot conduct proceedings in his/her own name, who can represent him/her in judicial proceedings?**

	Civil proceedings	Criminal proceedings
<b>Parent/legal guardian</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, always <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, except in some specific situations <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, always <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, except in some specific situations <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Other representative (instead of parent/legal guardian)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Social care services or other public institution <input type="checkbox"/> Legal professional <input type="checkbox"/> Associations for protection of minors <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Social care services or other public institution <input type="checkbox"/> Legal professional <input type="checkbox"/> Associations for protection of minors <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comment

**031-3. What are the different criteria for the criminal liability of minors? (multiple replies possible)**

- Age threshold(s)
- Capacity for discernment
- Other criteria

Comment

**031-3-1. What is the age threshold for the criminal liability of minors?**

**Criminal liability resulting in sentence without privation of liberty (for example, educational measures)**

[ 10 ]

[ ] NA

[ ] NAP

### **Criminal liability resulting in sentence of privation of liberty**

[ 10 ]

[ ] NA

[ ] NAP

Comment - Please describe, briefly, the specifics of your system. Could you, please specify if the possibility of mitigation applies to the sanctions and how?

### **032. Does your country allocate compensation for victims of offences?**

- Yes, but only if offender is unknown
- Yes, but only if compensation could not be obtained from offender
- Yes, always
- No

Comment

#### **032-0. If yes, for what types of offences the compensation is allocated?**

- For all types of offences
- For some types of offences

[ ] NAP

Comment - Please specify: Subject to eligibility.

#### **032-1. Is a court decision necessary in the framework of the compensation procedure?**

- Yes
- No

Comments None of the above answers can be applied generally as a court may order compensation as part of the decision in cases involving criminal injuries, criminal damage or where loss has been sustained e.g theft, fraud etc. The person convicted of the offence may be ordered to pay compensation to the victim. There is a separate procedure where the victim may apply for compensation to a tribunal arising specifically from criminal injury; the incident must have been reported to the police, but no court decision is required.

#### **032-0. If yes, for what types of offences the compensation is allocated?**

- For all types of offences
- For some types of offences

[ ] NAP

Comment - Please specify: Subject to eligibility.

#### **032-1. Is a court decision necessary in the framework of the compensation procedure?**

- Yes
- No

Comments None of the above answers can be applied generally as a court may order compensation as part of the decision in cases involving criminal injuries, criminal damage or where loss has been sustained e.g theft, fraud etc. The person convicted of the offence may be ordered to pay compensation to the victim. There is a separate procedure where the victim may apply for compensation to a tribunal

arising specifically from criminal injury; the incident must have been reported to the police, but no court decision is required.

### **032-0. If yes, for what types of offences the compensation is allocated?**

- For all types of offences  
 For some types of offences

NAP

Comment - Please specify: Subject to eligibility.

### **032-1. Is a court decision necessary in the framework of the compensation procedure?**

- Yes  
 No

Comments None of the above answers can be applied generally as a court may order compensation as part of the decision in cases involving criminal injuries, criminal damage or where loss has been sustained e.g theft, fraud etc. The person convicted of the offence may be ordered to pay compensation to the victim. There is a separate procedure where the victim may apply for compensation to a tribunal arising specifically from criminal injury; the incident must have been reported to the police, but no court decision is required.

### **034. Are there studies that evaluate the recovery rate of the damages awarded by courts to victims?**

- Yes  
 No

Comments - If yes, please illustrate with available data concerning the recovery rate, the title of the studies, the frequency of the studies and the coordinating body:

### **035. Do public prosecutors have a specific role with respect to victims (protection and assistance)?**

- Yes  
 No

Comments - If yes, please specify: The Prosecution Decision

A victim is entitled to ask for their specific views to be taken into account as part of the Prosecutor's decision-making process. Should a victim choose to do so, their views will be given careful consideration by the Prosecutor before they make a decision. The views of the victim will be provided by the police in a report for the file which is prepared for the PPS. In cases where the Prosecutor is considering offering an alternative to prosecution (for example, a caution or informed warning), the victim will be informed of this where possible and given an opportunity to tell the PPS their views on this potential course of action. The views of victims are important and, whilst the Prosecutor will not always be able to act in accordance with these wishes, they will be carefully considered before a decision is reached.

#### **Special Measures**

Special measures are a range of provisions that can be put in place if the Judge is satisfied that a victim is either vulnerable or intimidated and, if so, whether special measures would be likely to improve the quality of their evidence. Examples of such measures include the use of screens or curtains (so that the victim does not see the defendant), giving evidence away from the courtroom via 'live link' or allowing assistance from a registered intermediary (to assist those persons with significant communication difficulties).

Once the Prosecutor dealing with the case receives the victim's statement and any other evidence, they will decide whether a special measures application can be made to the court. The Prosecutor will then present the application to the court and the defendant's lawyers will be given an opportunity to object. The Judge will then make the final decision. Other measures the PPS may also consider include the following: -removing the address of a victim from the papers to be disclosed to the defence where that address is not legally relevant to the case; and/or -seeking to agree witness statements with the defence so that the victim need not attend in person. It should be noted, however, that the defence cannot be made to agree the evidence of any witness. These matters are normally dealt with by the Prosecutor prior to the trial so as to ease any concerns of the victim in advance. Where special measures have been granted, the PPS will ask the court to give the case priority.

### **035-1. Do public prosecutors have a specific role with respect to minor victims (protection and**

assistance)?

Yes

No

Comment - If yes, please specify:

**036. Do victims of offences have the right to dispute a public prosecutor's decision to discontinue a case? Please verify the consistency of your answers in this question and question 105 regarding the possibility for a public prosecutor "to discontinue a case without needing a decision by a judge".**

Yes

No

NAP

Comment - If necessary, please specify: Victims are entitled to ask for a review of a decision not to prosecute after detailed reasons have been requested and / or received. Once received, the PPS will conduct a review of the decision. If there is additional evidence or information, the original Prosecutor will reconsider the case. If there is no new evidence or information, a different Prosecutor will conduct the review.

Where a decision is taken by the PPS to substantially alter a charge, to discontinue all proceedings, or to offer no evidence, the victim will be informed of this decision and given reasons for the decision where requested. Victims are entitled to ask for a meeting to discuss this decision.

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

	Number of requests for compensation	Number of condemnations	Total amount (in €)
<b>Total</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Excessive length of proceedings</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Non-execution of court decisions</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Wrongful arrest</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Wrongful conviction</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Other</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comment - Where appropriate, please give details of the compensation procedure and the calculation method for the amount of the compensation (e.g. the amount per day for unjustified detentions or convictions): There is only a remedy for wrongful arrest or wrongful conviction – this would be by way of a separate civil remedy taken by the individual

## 2.2.2 Confidence and satisfaction of citizens with their justice system

**038. Does your country implement surveys to measure trust in justice and satisfaction with the**

services delivered by the judicial system?

	National level	Court level
Surveys for judges	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for court staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for public prosecutors	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for lawyers	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for other professionals	<input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for the parties	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for other court users (e.g. jurors, witnesses, experts, interpreters, representatives of governmental agencies, NGOs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for victims	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for minors	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for the general public	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Other not mentioned	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc

Comment - Please, indicate the references and links to the satisfaction surveys you mentioned above: NIVAWS - The Department of Justice routinely undertakes both quantitative (survey) and qualitative (interview) research with victims and witnesses of crime.

[www.justice-ni.gov.uk/articles/victims-and-witnesses](http://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/articles/victims-and-witnesses)

Other NICTS initiated surveys are not published – these are aimed at court users and are for specific purposes e.g. increases to court fees.

**039. Are there statistical data concerning male and female court users, persons who initiate a case, victims, accused persons, etc.**

( ) Yes, please specify: .....

( X ) No

Comment - If you have additional comments please specify:

**040. Is there a national or local procedure for filing complaints about the functioning of the judicial system? (for example, handling of the case by a judge or the duration of a proceeding)**

Yes

No

Comments

**041. If yes, please specify certain aspects of this procedure:**

	Authority responsible for dealing with the complaint	Existence of a time limit to deal with the complaint for this authority
<b>Court concerned</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Higher court</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Ministry of Justice</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>High Judicial Council</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Other external bodies (e.g. Ombudsman)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comments

**041-1. If yes, please specify certain aspects of this procedure:**

	Number of complaints	Compensation amount granted
<b>Court concerned</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Higher court</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Ministry of Justice</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>High Judicial Council</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Other external bodies (e.g. Ombudsman)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If possible, please give information concerning the efficiency of this complaint procedure and any useful comment:

### 3. Organisation of the court system

#### 3.1. Courts

### 3.1.1 Number of courts



#### 042. Number of courts - legal entities.

	Number of courts
Total number of all courts - legal entities (1 + 2)	6 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
1 Total number of courts of general jurisdiction - legal entities (1.1 + 1.2 + 1.3)	6 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
1.1 First instance courts of general jurisdiction - legal entities	4 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
1.2 Second instance courts of general jurisdiction - legal entities	1 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
1.3 Highest instance courts of general jurisdiction - legal entities	1 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
2 Total number of specialised courts - legal entities	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP

Comments [https://www.judiciaryni.uk/sites/judiciary-ni.gov.uk/files/media-files/Court%20Structure%20in%20Northern%20Ireland\\_0.pdf](https://www.judiciaryni.uk/sites/judiciary-ni.gov.uk/files/media-files/Court%20Structure%20in%20Northern%20Ireland_0.pdf)

#### 043. Number of specialised courts – legal entities.

	First instance	Higher instances
Total number of specialised courts - legal entities	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
Commercial courts (excluded insolvency courts)	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
Insolvency courts	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
Labour courts	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
Family courts	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
Rent and tenancies courts	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
Enforcement of criminal sanctions courts	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP



<b>Fight against terrorism, organised crime and corruption</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Internet related disputes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Administrative courts</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Insurance and / or social welfare courts</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Military courts</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Juvenile courts</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Other specialised courts</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If “Other specialised courts”, please specify:

#### 044. Number of courts - geographic locations.

	Number of courts (geographic locations)
<b>First instance courts geographic locations (this includes 1st instance courts of general jurisdiction and first instance specialised courts)</b>	17 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>All the courts (geographic locations) (this includes 1st instance courts of general jurisdiction, first instance specialised courts, all second instance courts and courts of appeal and all Supreme Courts)</b>	18 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments Only 1 location has both first and second instance type courts.

=

#### 045. Number of first instance courts (geographic locations) competent for a case concerning:

	Number of courts
<b>A small claim</b>	12 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>An employment dismissal</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>A robbery</b>	17 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>An insolvency case</b>	1 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

**045-1. Is your definition of a small claim the same as the one in the Explanatory note?**

Yes

No

Comments - If not, please give your definition of a small claim:

**045-2. Please indicate the value in € of a small claim:**

[ 3 000 ]

Comments

**C. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part**

Sources: www.courtsni.gov.uk

**3.2. Court staff**

**3.2.1 Judges and non-judge staff**

**046. Number of professional judges sitting in courts (if possible on 31 December of the reference year). (please give the information in full-time equivalent and for posts actually filled for all types of courts - general jurisdiction and specialised courts)**

	Total	Males	Females
<b>Total number of professional judges (1 + 2 + 3)</b>	74 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	47 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	27 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>1. Number of first instance professional judges</b>	62 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	37 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	25 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2. Number of second instance (court of appeal) professional judges</b>	2 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	2 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>3. Number of Supreme Court professional judges</b>	10 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	8 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	2 [ ] NA [ ] NAP

Comment - Please provide any useful comment for interpreting the data above:

=

**046-1-1. Does your system allow part-time work for judges with proportionally reduced remuneration?**

Yes

No

**046-1-2. If yes, please specify in which situation part-time work can be granted? (multiple replies possible):**

- Child-care
- Elderly care
- For the purposes of early retirement
- Other reason, please specify: .....
- Without reason

**046-1-3. If yes, what is the percentage of judges working part-time (in relation to the total number of judges)?**

	Total (%)	Male (%)	Females (%)
<b>Total (1 + 2 + 3) (%)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>1. At first instance level (%)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2. At second instance (court of appeal) level (%)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>3. At Supreme Court level (%)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

**046-1-4. What is the percentage of work time of a judge working part-time compared to a full-time equivalent judge?**

- Less than 50%
- 50 – 60%
- 60 - 80%
- More than 80%
- NA
- NAP

Comments NA - judges working part-time may select different percentages of work time

=

**046-2. Number of judges (FTE) by case type:**

Total	Civil and/or commercial	Criminal	Administrative	Other



<b>Total number of judges</b>	74 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>First instance</b>	62 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>Second instance</b>	2 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>Supreme court</b>	10 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP

If "Other", please explain which types of cases: NAP



=

**047. Number of court presidents (professional judges).**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
<b>Total number of court presidents (1 + 2 + 3)</b>	3 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	2 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	1 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>1. Number of first instance court presidents</b>	3 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	2 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	1 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2. Number of second instance (court of appeal) court presidents</b>	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
<b>3. Number of Supreme Court presidents</b>	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP

Comments Previously the number of Presiding judges was provided which is 7. However, the number of Presidents is confirmed as 3 and they are all first instance. They are the Lady Chief Justice of NI, the President of the Appeals Tribunals and the President of the Industrial Tribunals and the Fair Employment Tribunal. They are the president over all of the courts or tribunals within their remit.

**048. Number of professional judges sitting in courts on an occasional basis and who are paid as such (if possible, on 31 December of the reference year):**

	<b>Figure</b>
<b>Gross figure</b>	566 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>In full-time equivalent</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments - If necessary, please provide comments to explain the answer provided:

**048-1. Do these professional judges sitting in courts on an occasional basis deal with a significant part of cases?**

Yes If yes, please give specifications on the types of cases and an estimate in percentage. ....

No

NAP

Comments

**049. Number of non-professional judges who are not remunerated but who may receive a simple defrayal of costs (if possible, on 31 December of the reference year) (e.g. lay judges or “juges consulaires”, but not arbitrators or persons sitting on a jury):**

	Figure
Gross figure	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
In full time equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

**049-1. If such non-professional judges exist at first instance in your country, please specify for which types of cases:**

	Yes	No	Echevinage / mixed bench
Criminal cases (severe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criminal cases (misdemeanour and/or minor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family law cases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Labour law cases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social law cases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial law cases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insolvency cases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other civil cases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NAP

Comments - If “Other civil cases”, please specify:

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

Yes

No

Comments

**050-1. If yes, for which type(s) of case(s)?**

Criminal cases

Other than criminal cases

Comments

**051. Number of citizens who were involved in such juries for the year of reference:**

25 000 ]

NA

NAP

Comments

=

**052. Number of non-judge staff who are working in courts (if possible on 31 December of the reference year) (this data should not include the staff working for public prosecutors; see question 60) (please give the information in full-time equivalent and for posts actually filled)**

	Total	Males	Females
<b>Total non-judge staff working in courts (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5)</b>	698 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>1. Rechtspfleger (or similar bodies) with judicial or quasi-judicial tasks having autonomous competence and whose decisions could be subject to appeal</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2. Non-judge (judicial) staff whose task is to assist the judges such as registrars (case file preparation, assistance during the hearing, helping to draft the decisions)</b>	460 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>3. Staff in charge of different administrative tasks and of the management of the courts (human resources management, material and equipment management, including computer systems, financial and budgetary management, training management)</b>	238 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>4. Technical staff</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>5. Other non-judge staff</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If "Other non-judge staff", please specify: As far as we are aware there are no trainee grades in NICTS

**052-1. Number of non-judge staff by instance (if possible, on 31 December of the reference year) (this data should not include the staff working for public prosecutors; see question 60) (please give**

the information in full-time equivalent and for posts actually filled).

	Total	Males	Females
<b>Total non-judge staff working in courts (1+2+3)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>1. Total non-judge staff working in courts at first instance level</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2. Total non-judge staff working in courts at second instance (court of appeal) level</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>3. Total non-judge staff working in courts at Supreme Court level</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments

=

**053. If there are Rechtspfleger (or similar bodies) with judicial or quasi-judicial tasks having autonomous competence and whose decisions could be subject to appeal in your judicial system, please specify in which fields they have a role:**

- Legal aid
- Family cases
- Payment orders
- Registry cases (land and/or business registry cases)
- Enforcement of civil cases
- Enforcement of criminal cases
- Non-litigious cases
- Other cases not mentioned (please describe in comment)
- NAP

Comments - Please briefly describe their status and duties:

**054. Have the courts outsourced certain services under their responsibilities to external providers?**

- Yes
- No

Comments

**054-1. If yes, please specify which services have been outsourced:**

- IT services
- Training of staff
- Security
- Archives

Cleaning

Other types of services (please specify): Provision of interpreters, coroners removal services, courier services, catering, transcription services, some IT services outside of the main NI government shared service contract, accountancy services. Some other miscellaneous support services.

Comments

### C1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/nicts-annual-report-and-accounts>

NICTS Judicial HR records

## 3.3. Public prosecution

### 3.3.1 Public prosecutors and staff

055. Number of public prosecutors (on 31 December of the reference year). (Please give the information in full-time equivalent and for posts actually filled, for all types of courts – general jurisdiction and specialised courts).

	Total	Males	Females
Total number of prosecutors (1 + 2 + 3)	162 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	59 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	103 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
1. Number of prosecutors at first instance level	162 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	59 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	103 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
2. Number of prosecutors at second instance (court of appeal) level	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
3. Number of prosecutors at Supreme Court level	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP

Comments - Please indicate any useful comment for interpreting the data above: The NAP entries are partly explained by the fact that Public Prosecutors do not typically prosecute at the second instance or Supreme Court level (outside Queens Counsel are engaged to do this). However, the original response was perhaps not clear, and has been updated to confirm that all prosecutors perform at first instance level.

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055-1-1. Does your system allow part-time work for prosecutors with proportionally reduced remuneration?

Yes

No

Comments



**055-1-2. If yes, please specify in which situation part-time work can be granted? (multiple replies possible):**

- Child-care
- Elderly care
- For the purposes of early retirement
- Other reason, please specify: .....
- Without reason

Comments

**055-1-3. If yes, what is the percentage of prosecutors working part-time (in relation to the total number of prosecutors)?**

	Total (%)	Male (%)	Females (%)
<b>Total (1 + 2 + 3) (%)</b>	26 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	10 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	41 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>1. At first instance level (%)</b>	26 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	10 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	41 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2. At second instance (court of appeal) level (%)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>3. At Supreme Court level (%)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

**055-1-4. What is the percentage of work time of a prosecutor working part-time compared to a full-time equivalent prosecutor?**

- Less than 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 80%
- More than 80%
- NA
- NAP

Comments

**056. Number of heads of prosecution offices.**

	Total	Males	Females
<b>Total number of heads of prosecution offices (1 + 2 + 3)</b>	1 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	1 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

<b>1. Number of heads of prosecution offices at first instance level</b>	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
<b>2. Number of heads of prosecution offices at second instance (court of appeal) level</b>	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
<b>3. Number of heads of prosecution offices at Supreme Court level</b>	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP

Please provide any useful comment for interpreting the data above:

**057. Do other persons have similar duties to those of public prosecutors?**

( ) Yes

( X ) No

Comments - If yes, please specify their titles and functions:

**057-1. Please specify their number (in full-time equivalent):**

[            ]

[ ] NA

**059. If yes, is their number included in the number of public prosecutors that you have indicated under question 55?**

( ) Yes

( ) No

[ ] NAP

Comments

**059-1. Do prosecution offices have prosecutors who are specially trained in areas of domestic violence and sexual violence?**

	-
<b>Domestic violence</b>	[ ] Yes [ ] Yes, specifically for minor victims [ X ] No [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>Sexual violence</b>	[ X ] Yes [ ] Yes, specifically for minor victims [ ] No [ ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments - If yes, please specify There are currently 15 trained specialist prosecutors who work on sexual offence cases. There will soon be specialists in domestic violence as one response to the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act coming into force (scheduled for October), but had none during the reporting period in question

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**060. Number of staff (non-public prosecutors) attached to the public prosecution services, if possible, on 31 December of the reference year and without the number of non-judge staff, see question 52 (in full-time equivalent and for posts actually filled).**

	Total	Males	Females
<b>Number of staff (non-public prosecutors) attached to the public prosecution service</b>	276 [ ] NA	97 [ ] NA	179 [ ] NA

Comments Reduction of almost 11% compared to the previous cycle is due to the operation of a Voluntary Exit Scheme operated in the interim, and instances of organisational restructuring in response to business need.

There are currently no trainee roles within the department (legal or administrative).

**C2. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part**

Sources: Public Prosecution Service

**3.4. Gender equality**

**3.4.1 Specific provisions for facilitating gender equality**

**061-2. Are there specific provisions for facilitating gender equality within the framework of the procedures for recruiting :**

	Yes, please specify	No
<b>judges</b>	( X )	( )
<b>prosecutors</b>	( X )	( )
<b>non-judge staff</b>	( X )	( )
<b>lawyers</b>	( X )	( )
<b>notaries</b>	( X )	( )
<b>enforcement agents</b>	( X )	( )

[ ] NA

Comments - if the situation changed since the reference year, please specify in the comments. If you have additional comments please specify: Additional comments for 'if yes, please specify' section above:

JUDGES: Under the terms of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002, a Judicial Appointments Commission (NIJAC) was established which should so far as is reasonably practicable, be reflective of the community in Northern Ireland. The Commission is similarly tasked to make appointments to listed judicial offices which are similarly reflective of the community in Northern Ireland so far as is reasonably practicable. These positive duties require a programme of action from the Commission but are subject to the overriding principle that applications should be made solely on merit. NIJAC produces an annual monitoring report on a number of equality categories including the gender composition of the judiciary and applicant pool for judicial posts. As can be seen above, there is an advanced equality

framework for judicial appointments in Northern Ireland which is subject to regular review. NIJAC is in addition subject to the oversight of the Commissioner for Public Appointments Northern Ireland . The Commissioner monitors the application of selection on merit by a number of specified public bodies and diversity (including gender) is a key part of the Code of Practice of the Commissioner.

**PROSECUTORS:** Under the terms of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, public authorities must have due regard to the promotion of equality of opportunity between nine equality categories, one of which is gender. The Director of Public Prosecutions as head of the Public Prosecution Service (‘PPS’) is a designated public body to whom the provision applies. The PPS in Northern Ireland has an Equality Scheme in place which it notes is submitted annually to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (itself set up under the 1998 Act) in line with its responsibilities under Section 75. <https://www.ppsni.gov.uk/Equality-and-Diversity-Policies---5081.html>. Notification on recruitment advertising for prosecutors should a gender be under-represented.

**NON-JUDGE STAFF:** The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service is an agency of the Department of Justice and is as such subject to the duty on promotion of equality of opportunity under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The Department of Justice has an Equality Action Plan 2017-2022, which includes a focus on gender issues such as women’s mentoring and leadership programmes.

**LAWYERS:** Lawyers employed in the Government Legal Service in Northern Ireland are covered by an equality framework within the Northern Ireland Civil Service derived from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Northern Ireland has a well-developed corps of equality law and practice as noted above. In relation to the private sector, it is important to note that all employers are subject to the provisions of the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (as amended).

**NOTARIES:**Notaries in Northern Ireland are appointed by the Lord Chief Justice under the provisions of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Order 1978

**061-3. Are there specific provisions for facilitating gender equality within the framework of the procedures for promoting :**

	Yes, please specify	No
<b>judges</b>	( X )	( )
<b>prosecutors</b>	( )	( X )
<b>non-judge staff</b>	( X )	( )
<b>lawyers</b>	( X )	( )
<b>notaries</b>	( X )	( )
<b>enforcement agents</b>	( X )	( )

Comments - If the situation changed since the reference year or you have additional comments, please specify: Additional comments for 'if yes, please specify' section above:

**JUDGES:** Under the terms of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002, a Judicial Appointments Commission (NIJAC) was established which should so far as is reasonably practicable, be reflective of the community in Northern Ireland. The Commission is similarly tasked to make appointments to listed judicial offices which are similarly reflective of the community in Northern Ireland so far as is reasonably practicable. These positive duties require a programme of action from the Commission but are subject to the overriding principle that applications should be made solely on merit. NIJAC produces an annual monitoring report on a number of equality categories including the gender composition of the judiciary and applicant pool for judicial posts. As can be seen above, there is an advanced equality framework for judicial appointments in Northern Ireland which is subject to regular review. NIJAC is in addition subject to the oversight of the Commissioner for Public Appointments Northern Ireland . The Commissioner monitors the application of selection on merit by a number of specified public bodies and diversity (including gender) is a key part of the Code of Practice of the Commissioner.

**NON-JUDGE STAFF:** The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service is an agency of the Department of Justice and is as such subject to the duty on promotion of equality of opportunity under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The Department of Justice has an Equality Action Plan 2017-2022, which includes a focus on gender issues such as women’s mentoring and leadership programmes.

**LAWYERS:** Lawyers employed in the Government Legal Service in Northern Ireland are covered by an equality framework within the

Northern Ireland Civil Service derived from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Northern Ireland has a well-developed corps of equality law and practice as noted above. In relation to the private sector, it is important to note that all employers are subject to the provisions of the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (as amended).

NOTARIES: Notaries in Northern Ireland are appointed by the Lord Chief Justice under the provisions of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Order 1978

ENFORCEMENT AGENTS: The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland is a designated public body under a duty to promote equality of opportunity under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice (charged with inspecting and evaluating co-operation of agencies within the criminal justice system) is also a designated public body for the purposes of Section 75. It is also important to appreciate the role and functions of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, in terms of advising on compliance of legislation and the promotion of human rights within Northern Ireland, which will include a range of issues including gender

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**061-3-1. Are there specific provisions for facilitating gender equality within the framework of the procedures for the appointment of:**

	Yes / No
<b>Court president</b>	( ) Yes If “yes”, please specify:[Comment] ( X ) No
<b>Head of prosecution services</b>	( ) Yes If “yes”, please specify:[Comment] ( X ) No

Comments

**3.4.2 At national level**

**061-5. Does your country have an overarching document (e.g. policy/strategy/action plan/program) on gender equality that applies specifically to the judiciary?**

- ( ) Yes
- ( X ) No

Comments - If the situation changed since the reference year, please indicate in the comments. Could you specify the reference or internet link of this/these document(s) or send/upload it/them to us?

**061-6. At national level, is there any specific person (e.g. an equal opportunities commissioner) / institution dealing with gender issues in the justice system concerning:**

	Yes, please specify	No
<b>The recruitment of judges</b>	( )	( X )
<b>The promotion of judges</b>	( )	( X )
<b>The recruitment of prosecutors</b>	( )	( X )
<b>The promotion of prosecutors</b>	( )	( X )

<b>The recruitment of non-judge staff</b>	( )	( X )
<b>The promotion of non-judge staff</b>	( )	( X )

Comments - if other than recruitment and/or promotion, please specify. If the situation changed since the reference year, please specify in the comments: NIJAC, the Equality Commission and the Commissioner for Public Appointments have a range of duties which include the monitoring and assessment of equality on grounds of gender in the case of NIJAC and the Equality Commission.

**061-6-1. Please specify the text which set up this person/institution :**

(title, date, nature of the text) NIJAC- Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 (as amended)  
 Equality Commission- Northern Ireland Act 1998 (as amended)  
 Commissioner for Public Appointments- Commissioner for Public Appointments (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (as amended)  
 Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission- Northern Ireland Act 1998 (as amended)

[ ] NAP

**061-6-2. Please specify the status of this person/institution:**

(e.g. independent, attached to the Ministry of Justice, to the High Judicial Council or equivalent or to an inter-ministerial institution specifically dedicated to gender equality) NIJAC- Independent and established by statute. Chaired by the Lord Chief Justice who is head of the independent judiciary  
 Equality Commission- Independent and established by statute. Commission for Public Appointments- Independent and established by legislation.  
 Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission- Independent and established by statute.

[ ] NAP

**061-6-3. Please specify if this person/institution has an information and consultative function or if its opinions/decisions have legal consequences:**

(e.g. to block a decision or allow an appeal)

[ X ] NAP

**3.4.3 At court/public prosecution services level**



**061-7. At the court or public prosecution services level, is there a person (e.g. an equal opportunities commissioner)/institution specifically dedicated to ensure the respect of gender equality in the organisation of judicial work:**

	Yes	No
in courts (judges)	( )	( X )
in public prosecution services (prosecutors)	( )	( X )
for courts' non-judge staff	( )	( X )

Comments - Please specify the details of this person/institution, in particular its titles and function: NAP

**061-8. Does the feminisation of certain functions, if it exists in your country, within courts or public prosecution services, lead to concrete changes in the organisation of the work in the following areas:**

	Yes	No
Assignment to different positions	( )	( X )
Workload distribution	( )	( X )
Working hours	( )	( X )
Modalities of teleworking and presence in the workspace	( )	( X )
Replacement of absent persons	( )	( X )
Organisation of the hearings	( )	( X )
Other	( )	( X )

Comments - If other, please specify. Could you also indicate concrete examples referring to the various possibilities mentioned? If the situation changed since the reference year, please specify in the comments.

**061-9. In order to improve gender balance in access to different judicial professions and equality in promotion and in access to functions of responsibility, what are the measures, in your country, which:**

have been already implemented (please specify) :

are planned (please specify) :

Comments - If the situation changed since reference year, please specify in the comments.

**061-10. Are there evaluation studies or official reports regarding the main causes of possible inequalities with regard to:**

- Recruitment procedures, please specify: .....
- Appointment to the position of court president, please specify: .....
- Appointment to the position of head of prosecution services, please specify: .....
- Promotion procedures and access to the functions of responsibility, please specify: .....
- Other studies, please specify: .....

[ X ] NAP

Comments - Please specify also the reference documents.

**3.5 Use of information technologies in courts**

**3.5.1 General policies in Information Technology in judicial systems**

**062-1. Basic principles and models used in Information technology policies and strategies definition**

	Organisation
IT policies and strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Defined and coordinated at national level by one institution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Defined and coordinated at national level by several institutions <input type="checkbox"/> Defined and coordinated at unit/stakeholder level <input type="checkbox"/> Other
IT Governance	<input type="checkbox"/> Governed at national level by one institution <input type="checkbox"/> Governed at national level by several institutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organised at unit/stakeholder level <input type="checkbox"/> Other

Comments

**065-1. In case there is a national structure in charge of the strategic policy making and governance of the judicial system modernisation (including also IT) what is the composition of this structure?**

- administrative, technical and scientific staff only
- mixed teams of judicial staff (judges/prosecutors/etc.) and administrative/technical/scientific staff
- other (please specify in a comment)

Comments - (please specify if there are other modernisation approaches that have been implemented): NAP

**065-2. Which is the organisational model primarily chosen for conducting structural IT projects in courts and the management of applications (maintenance, evolution)?**



	Implementing new projects	Management of applications
Mainly by an IT department with the help of professionals in the field (judges, prosecutors, non-judge judicial staff, etc.)	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
Mainly by professionals in the field (judges, prosecutors, non-judge judicial staff, etc.) with the help of an internal IT department and/or an external service provider	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
Other alternatives (external service provider only – specify in a comment)	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No

Comments - please also describe in case of “other alternatives” Support for IT systems provided by service providers – both private sector companies and public sector (shared services).

**065-4. Have you measured the impact resulting from the implementation of one or several components of your new information system?**

- ( X ) Yes
- ( ) No

**065-4-1. If yes, have you measured the impact on (multiple answers possible):**

- [ X ] Business processes
- [ X ] Workload
- [ X ] Human resources
- [ X ] Costs
- [ ] Other, please specify .....

Comments (please specify examples of the impact)

**3.5.2 Security of courts information system and personal data protection**

**065-5. Are there independent audits or other mechanisms to contribute to the global security policy regarding the information system of the judiciary ?**

- ( X ) Yes
- ( ) No

Comments (please specify in particular if national frameworks of information security exist):

**065-6. Is the protection of personal data managed by courts ensured at legislative level?**

- ( X ) Yes
- ( ) No

Comment - If yes, please specify among others: if there are authorities specifically responsible for protection of personal data; the extent of the rights granted to citizens in the specific framework of software used by courts; if there are controls or limitations by law regarding the sharing of databases managed by courts with other administrations (police, etc.) Data Protection Act 2018. GDPR. Information Commissioners Office

### 3.5.3 Centralised databases for decision support

#### 062-4. Is there a centralised national database of court decisions (case-law, etc.)?

Yes

Non

Comments

##### 062-4-1. If yes, please specify the following information:

	For 1st instance decisions	For 2nd instance decisions	For 3rd instance decisions	Link with ECHR case law	Data anonymised	Case-law database available free online	Case-law database available in open data
<b>Civil and/or commercial</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes all judgements <input type="checkbox"/> Yes some judgements <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes all judgements <input type="checkbox"/> Yes some judgements <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes all judgements <input type="checkbox"/> Yes some judgements <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Criminal</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes all judgements <input type="checkbox"/> Yes some judgements <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes all judgements <input type="checkbox"/> Yes some judgements <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes all judgements <input type="checkbox"/> Yes some judgements <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Administrative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes all judgements <input type="checkbox"/> Yes some judgements <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes all judgements <input type="checkbox"/> Yes some judgements <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes all judgements <input type="checkbox"/> Yes some judgements <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comments - if it exists in other matters please specify

#### 062-6. Is there a computerised national record centralising all criminal convictions?

Yes

No

Comments

##### 062-6-1. If yes, please specify the following information:

Linkage with other European records of the same nature

Content directly available through computerised means for judges and/or prosecutors

Content directly available for purposes other than criminal (civil and administrative matters)

Comments - Please specify who is the authority delivering the access

### 3.5.4 Writing assistance tools

#### 062-7. Are there writing assistance tools for which the content is coordinated at national level?

(models or templates, paragraphs already pre-written, etc.)

Yes

No

Comment – if it exists in other matters please specify

**062-7-1. If yes, please specify the following information:**

	<b>Availability rate</b>
<b>Civil and/or commercial</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% (all templates are available for all courts of this matter) <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% (most of the templates are available for all courts or all templates for most of the courts) <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% (some of the templates are available for most of the courts or most of the templates for some of the courts) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-9% (just starting to become available or in testing phase) <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) (does not exist at all for this matter) <input type="checkbox"/> NA
<b>Criminal</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100% (all templates are available for all courts of this matter) <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% (most of the templates are available for all courts or all templates for most of the courts) <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% (some of the templates are available for most of the courts or most of the templates for some of the courts) <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% (just starting to become available or in testing phase) <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) (does not exist at all for this matter) <input type="checkbox"/> NA
<b>Administrative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% (all templates are available for all courts of this matter) <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% (most of the templates are available for all courts or all templates for most of the courts) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10-49% (some of the templates are available for most of the courts or most of the templates for some of the courts) <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% (just starting to become available or in testing phase) <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) (does not exist at all for this matter) <input type="checkbox"/> NA

**062-8. Are there voice recording tools?**

( X ) Yes

( ) No

Comments

**062-8-1. If yes, please specify:**

	<b>Availability of simple dictation tools</b>	<b>Availability of multiple speakers recording tools</b>	<b>Voice recognition feature</b>
<b>Civil and/or commercial</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> in all courts <input type="checkbox"/> in most of the courts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in some courts / some pilot phases <input type="checkbox"/> not available for this matter [ ] NA	<input type="checkbox"/> in all courts <input type="checkbox"/> in most of the courts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in some courts / some pilot phases <input type="checkbox"/> not available for this matter [ ] NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Pilot testing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [ ] NA
<b>Criminal</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> in all courts <input type="checkbox"/> in most of the courts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in some courts / some pilot phases <input type="checkbox"/> not available for this matter [ ] NA	<input type="checkbox"/> in all courts <input type="checkbox"/> in most of the courts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in some courts / some pilot phases <input type="checkbox"/> not available for this matter [ ] NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Pilot testing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [ ] NA
<b>Administrative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> in all courts <input type="checkbox"/> in most of the courts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in some courts / some pilot phases <input type="checkbox"/> not available for this matter [ ] NA	<input type="checkbox"/> in all courts <input type="checkbox"/> in most of the courts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in some courts / some pilot phases <input type="checkbox"/> not available for this matter [ ] NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Pilot testing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [ ] NA

**062-9. Is there an intranet site within the judicial system for distribution of news/novelities?**

**Availability rate:**

- 100% - accessible to everyone in judiciary
- 50-99% - accessible for most judges/prosecutors in all instances
- 10-49% - in some courts only
- 1-9% - in one court only
- 0% (NAP) - No access

[ ] NA

Comments

**3.5.5 Technologies used for administration of the courts and case management**

**063-1. Is there a case management system (CMS) ? (Software used for registering judicial proceedings and their management)**

( X ) Yes

( ) No

Comments - if it exists in other matters please specify

**063-1-1. If yes, please specify the following information:**

	<b>CMS deployment rate</b>	<b>Status of case online</b>	<b>Centralised or interoperable database</b>	<b>Early warning signals (for active case management)</b>	<b>Status of integration/connection of a CMS with a statistical tool</b>
<b>Civil and/or commercial</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessible to parties <input type="checkbox"/> Publication of decision online <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Not accessible at all <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Fully integrated including BI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated <input type="checkbox"/> Not integrated but connected <input type="checkbox"/> Not connected at all <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Criminal</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessible to parties <input type="checkbox"/> Publication of decision online <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Not accessible at all <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Fully integrated including BI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated <input type="checkbox"/> Not integrated but connected <input type="checkbox"/> Not connected at all <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Administrative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Accessible to parties <input type="checkbox"/> Publication of decision online <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not accessible at all <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Fully integrated including BI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated <input type="checkbox"/> Not integrated but connected <input type="checkbox"/> Not connected at all <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comment - If it exists in other matters please specify:

**063-2. Computerised registries managed by courts**

<b>Deployment rate</b>	<b>Data consolidated at national level</b>	<b>Service available online</b>	<b>Statistical module integrated or connected</b>
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<b>Land registry</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Business registry</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comment – if it exists in other matters please specify: Both of these exist but they sit outside of the Courts system in Northern Ireland

## Budgetary and financial monitoring

### 063-6. Budgetary and financial management systems of courts

	<b>Tool deployment rate</b>	<b>Data consolidated at national level</b>	<b>System communicating with other ministries (financial among others)</b>
<b>Budgetary and financial management of courts</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Justice expenses management</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Other (please specify in comments)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

## Other tools of courts management

### 063-7. Measurement tools to assess the workload of judges, prosecutors and/or non-judge/non-prosecutor staff (tool quantifying the activity of judges, prosecutors and/or non-judge/non-prosecutor staff – for example the number of cases resolved)

Yes

No

**063-7-1. If yes, please specify the following information:**

	Tools deployment rate	Data used for monitoring at national level	Data used for monitoring at court local level	Tool integrated in the CMS
<b>For judges</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>For prosecutors</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>For non-judge/non-prosecutor staff</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

**3.5.6 Technologies used for communication between courts, professionals and/or court users**

**064-2. Is there a possibility to submit a case to courts by electronic means?(possibility to introduce a case by electronic means, for example an e-mail or a form on a website)**

Yes

No

Comments

**064-2-1. If yes, please specify the following information:**

	Availability rate	Simultaneous submission of cases in paper form remains mandatory	Specific legislative framework authorising the submission of a case	An integrated/connect ed tool with the CMS
<b>Civil and/or commercial</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

<b>Criminal</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Administrative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - if it exist in other matters please specify

**064-3. Is it possible to request legal aid by electronic means?**

Yes

No

Comments

**064-3-1. If yes, please specify the following information:**

	<b>Requesting legal aid electronically</b>
<b>Availability rate</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA
<b>Formalisation of the request in paper form remains mandatory</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Specific legislative framework regarding requests for legal aid by electronic means</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Granting legal aid is also electronic</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Information available in CMS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

**064-4. Is it possible to transmit summons to a judicial meeting or a hearing by electronic means? (a judicial meeting relates to stages prior to a court hearing, with a view to mediation or conciliation)**

Yes



( X ) No

Comments

**064-4-1. If yes, please specify the following information:**

	Summons produced by CMS	Simultaneous summon in paper form remains mandatory	Consent of the user to be notified by electronic means	Modalities (if other please specify in comments)	Specific legislative framework
Civil and/or commercial	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ] SMS [ ] E-mail [ ] Specific computer application [ ] Other	[ ]
Criminal	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ] SMS [ ] E-mail [ ] Specific computer application [ ] Other	[ ]
Administrative	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ] SMS [ ] E-mail [ ] Specific computer application [ ] Other	[ ]

Comments

**Use of information technologies for improving the quality of the communication between courts and professionals**

**064-6. Are there possibilities of electronic communication between courts and lawyers and/or parties? (sending of electronic files and data concerning a judicial proceeding with or without scanned documents, mainly to develop dematerialised communication)**

Tool deployment rate	Trial phases concerned	Modalities (if there are different according to the trial phases or if other, please specify in a comment)	Specific legal framework	Availability for

<b>Civil and/or commercial</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submission of a case to a court <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phases preparatory to a hearing <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule of hearings and/or deferrals <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transmission of court decisions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Specific computer application <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lawyers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parties not represented by lawyer
<b>Criminal</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Submission of a case to a court <input type="checkbox"/> Phases preparatory to a hearing <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule of hearings and/or deferrals <input type="checkbox"/> Transmission of court decisions	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Specific computer application <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Lawyers <input type="checkbox"/> Parties not represented by lawyer
<b>Administrative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Submission of a case to a court <input type="checkbox"/> Phases preparatory to a hearing <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule of hearings and/or deferrals <input type="checkbox"/> Transmission of court decisions	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Specific computer application <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Lawyers <input type="checkbox"/> Parties not represented by lawyer

Comments

**064-7. Terms and conditions of electronic communication used by professionals other than lawyers (sending of electronic data concerning a judicial proceeding with or without scanned documents, mainly to develop dematerialised communication)**

Tool deployment rate	Modalities (if there are different according to the deeds or if other, please specify in a comment)	Specific legal framework
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<b>Enforcement agents (as defined in Q169 and following)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specific computer application <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>Notaries (as defined in Q192 and following)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Specific computer application <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>Experts (as defined in Q202 and following)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Specific computer application <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>Judicial police services</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Specific computer application <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Comments NICTS would not be aware how Experts communicate with parties outside of the court.

**064-9. Are there online processing systems of specialised litigation (small claim litigation, undisputed claims, preparatory phases to the resolution of family conflicts, etc. – please, specify in “comments” section)?**

Yes

No

Comments – Please describe the system that exists. Small claims on-line

**Use of information technologies between courts, professionals and users in the framework of judicial proceedings**

**064-10. Videoconferencing between courts, professionals and/or users (this concerns the use of audio-visual devices in the framework of judicial proceedings such as the hearing of parties, etc.)**

Yes

No

Comments

**064-10-1. If yes, please specify the following information and describe in comments of this section the cases of actual use of videoconferencing and the expected benefits (for example, the use of this device to reduce the number of detainees’ transfers to the court):**

	Deployment rate (chose one only)	Proceeding phase	Specific legislative framework
<b>Civil and/or commercial</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prior to the hearing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> During the hearing <input type="checkbox"/> After the hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Criminal</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prior to the hearing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> During the hearing <input type="checkbox"/> After the hearing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Administrative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Prior to the hearing <input type="checkbox"/> During the hearing <input type="checkbox"/> After the hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comments

**064-11. Recording of hearings or debates (sound or audio-visual recording during the investigation and/or trial phase(s))**

( X ) Yes

( ) No

Comments

**064-11-1. If yes, please specify the following information:**

	Tool deployment rate	Type of recording	Specific legislative framework
<b>Civil and/or commercial</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sound <input type="checkbox"/> Video <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Criminal</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sound <input type="checkbox"/> Video <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

<b>Administrative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99% <input type="checkbox"/> 10-49% <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0% (NAP) <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Sound <input type="checkbox"/> Video <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
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### 064-12. Is electronic evidence admissible?

	Admissibility of electronic evidence	Legislative framework
<b>Civil and/or commercial</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> General law only <input type="checkbox"/> General and specialised law <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specialised law only <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Criminal</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> General law only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General and specialised law <input type="checkbox"/> Specialised law only <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Administrative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> General law only <input type="checkbox"/> General and specialised law <input type="checkbox"/> Specialised law only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - Other devices of electronic communication between courts, professionals and/or users

## 3.6. Performance and evaluation

### 3.6.1 National policies applied in courts and public prosecution services

**066. Are quality standards determined for the judicial system at national level (are there quality systems for the judiciary and/or judicial quality policies)?**

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify:

**067. Do you have specialised personnel entrusted with implementation of these national level quality standards?**

	Yes / No
<b>within the courts</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>within the public prosecution services</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Comments

### 3.6.2 Performance and quality objectives at court level/public prosecution services



#### **077. Concerning court activities, have you defined performance and quality indicators?**

Yes

No

Comments

#### **078. If yes, please select the main performance and quality indicators that have been defined for courts:**

- number of incoming cases
- length of proceedings (timeframes)
- number of resolved cases
- number of pending cases
- backlogs
- productivity of judges and court staff
- satisfaction of court staff
- satisfaction of users (regarding the services delivered by the courts)
- costs of the judicial procedures
- number of appeals
- appeal ratio
- clearance rate
- disposition time
- other (please specify): .....

Comments

#### **077-1. Concerning public prosecution activities, have you defined performance and quality indicators?**

Yes

No

Comments

#### **078-1. If yes, please select the main performance and quality indicators for the public prosecution services that have been defined:**

- number of incoming cases
- length of proceedings (timeframes)
- number of resolved cases
- number of pending cases
- backlogs
- productivity of prosecutors and prosecution staff

[ X ] satisfaction of prosecution staff

[ X ] satisfaction of users (regarding the services delivered by the public prosecutors)

[ ] costs of the judicial procedures

[ ] clearance rate

[ ] disposition time

[ X ] percentage of convictions and acquittals

[ X ] other (please specify): Caseload, dip sampling, no bills & acquittals by direction & freedom of information.

Comments

**073. Do you have a system to evaluate regularly court performance based primarily on the defined indicators?**

( X ) Yes

( ) No

Comments

**073-0. If yes, please specify the frequency:**

( ) Annual

( ) Less frequent

( X ) More frequent

Comments - If "Less frequent" or "More frequent", please specify: Quarterly

**073-1. Is this evaluation of the court activity used for the later allocation of resources within this court?**

( X ) Yes

( ) No

Comments

**073-2. If yes, which courses of action are taken?**

[ X ] Identifying to the causes of improved or deteriorated performance

[ X ] Reallocating resources (human/financial resources based on performance (treatment)

[ X ] Reengineering of internal procedures to increase efficiency (treatment)

[ ] Other (please specify): .....

Comments

**073-3. Do you have a system to evaluate regularly the performance of the public prosecution services based primarily on the defined indicators?**

( X ) Yes

( ) No

Comments

**073-4. If yes, please specify the frequency:**

- Annual
- Less frequent
- More frequent

Comments - If "less frequent" or "more frequent", please specify: Monthly and quarterly

**073-5. Is this evaluation of the activity of public prosecution services used for the later allocation of resources within this public prosecution service?**

- Yes
- No

Comments

**073-6. If yes, which courses of action are taken?**

- Identifying to the causes of improved or deteriorated performance
- Reallocating resources (human/financial resources based on performance (treatment))
- Reengineering of internal procedures to increase efficiency (treatment)
- Other (please specify): .....

Comments

=

**079. Who is responsible for evaluating the performance of the courts (multiple replies possible)?**

- High Judicial Council
- Ministry of Justice
- Inspection authority
- Supreme Court
- External audit body

Other (please specify):Analytical Services Group (Department of Justice & NICTS) resourced by statisticians from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) provide quality assured statistical reports. All management grades are also responsible for evaluating the performance of their business area / team on a periodic basis to ensure targets are on track to be met.

Comments

**079-1. Who is responsible for evaluating the performance of the public prosecution services (multiple replies possible)?**

- Public Prosecutorial Council
- Ministry of Justice
- Head of the organisational unit or hierarchically superior public prosecutor
- Prosecutor General /State public prosecutor
- External audit body
- Other (please specify):Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland / Justice Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly.



### 3.6.3 Measuring courts' / public prosecution services activity



#### **070. Do you regularly monitor court activities (performance and quality) concerning:**

- number of incoming cases
- length of proceedings (timeframes)
- number of resolved cases
- number of pending cases
- backlogs
- productivity of judges and court staff
- satisfaction of court staff
- satisfaction of users (regarding the services delivered by the courts)
- costs of the judicial procedures
- number of appeals
- appeal ratio
- clearance rate
- disposition time
- other (please specify): .....

Comments

#### **070-1. Do you regularly monitor public prosecution activities (performance and quality) concerning:**

- number of incoming cases
- length of proceedings (timeframes)
- number of resolved cases
- number of pending cases
- backlogs
- productivity of prosecutors and prosecution staff
- satisfaction of prosecution staff
- satisfaction of users (regarding the services delivered by the by the public prosecution)
- costs of the judicial procedures
- clearance rate
- disposition time
- percentage of convictions and acquittals

other (please specify):Caseload, dip sampling, no bills & acquittals by direction, hate crime/domestic violence and sexual offences prosecution rates, case prep, decisions by type, cracked trials, applications to court.

Comments

#### **071. Do you monitor the number of pending cases and cases that are not processed within a**

**reasonable timeframe (backlogs) for:**

- civil law cases
- criminal law cases
- administrative law cases

Comments

**072. Do you monitor waiting time during judicial proceedings?**

	Yes (If yes, please specify)	No
<b>within the courts</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measurement of all cases from receipt to disposal including waiting time	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>within the public prosecution services</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments

**3.6.4 Information regarding courts /public prosecution services activity**

**080. Is there a centralised institution that is responsible for collecting statistical data regarding the functioning of the courts?**

Yes (please indicate the name and the address of this institution):Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Statistics and Research Team, Laganside House, Belfast

No

Comments

**080-1. Are the statistics on the functioning of each court published?**

Yes, on the internet

No, only internally (on an intranet website)

No

Comments

=

**080-2. Is there a centralised institution that is responsible for collecting statistical data regarding the functioning of the public prosecution services?**

Yes (please indicate the name and the address of this institution):Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Statistics and Research Team, Laganside House, Belfast

No

Comments

**080-3. Are the statistics on the functioning of each public prosecution service published?**

Yes, on the internet

No, only internally (on an intranet website)

( ) No

Comments

=

**081. Are individual courts required to prepare an activity report (that includes, for example, data on the number of resolved cases or pending cases, the number of judges and administrative staff, targets and assessment of the activity)?**

( ) Yes

( X ) No

Comments - If yes, please describe the content of the report and its audience (i.e. to whom the report is intended):

**081-1. If yes, please specify in which form this report is released:**

[ ] Internet

[ ] Intranet (internal) website

[ ] Paper distribution

Comments

**081-2. If yes, please, indicate the periodicity at which the report is released:**

( ) Annual

( ) Less frequent

( ) More frequent

Comments

=

**081-3. Are public prosecution services required to prepare an activity report (that includes, for example, data on the number of incoming cases, the number of decisions, the number of public prosecutors and administrative staff, targets and assessment of the activity)?**

( X ) Yes

( ) No

Comments - If yes, please describe the content of the report and its audience (i.e. to whom the report is intended): Files received by type and classification, information request submitted to police by type, decisions issued by type, reasons for no prosecution, average days required for the issue of prosecutorial decisions by decision type, summons issued, defendants dealt with in crown/magistrates' court. This data is published in a quarterly Official Statistics statistical publication. There is a requirement for the PPS Annual Report and Accounts to be laid in the NI Assembly / Westminster and made available to the public.

**081-4. If yes, please specify in which form this report is released:**

[ X ] Internet

[ X ] Intranet (internal) website

[ X ] Paper distribution

Comments

**081-5. If yes, please, indicate the periodicity at which the report is released:**

- Annual
- Less frequent
- More frequent

Comments

### **3.6.5 Courts administration**

**082. Is there a process or structure of dialogue between the public prosecution services and courts regarding the way cases are presented before courts (for example the organisation, number and planning of hearings, on-call service for urgent cases, selection of simplified procedures of prosecution...)?**

- Yes
- No

Comments - If yes, please specify:

**082-1. Is there in general a process or structure of dialogue between lawyers and courts regarding the way cases are presented before courts in other than criminal matters (e.g. organisation, number and planning of hearings, on-call service for urgent cases)?**

- Yes
- No

Comments - If yes, please specify:

### **3.6.6 Performance and evaluation of judges and public prosecutors**

**083. Are there quantitative performance targets defined for each judge (e.g. the number of resolved cases in a month or year)?**

- Yes
- No

Comments

**083-1. Who is responsible for setting the individual targets for each judge?**

- Executive power (for example the Ministry of Justice)
- Legislative power
- Judicial power (for example the High Judicial Council, Supreme Court)
- President of the court
- Other (please specify): .....
- NAP

Comments

**114. Is there a system of qualitative individual assessment of the judges' work?**

( ) Yes

( X ) No

Comments

**114-1. If yes, please specify the frequency of this assessment:**

( ) Annual

( ) Less frequent

( ) More frequent

=

**083-2. Are there quantitative performance targets defined for each public prosecutor (e.g. the number of decisions in a month or year)?**

( X ) Yes

( ) No

Comments With some exceptions, depending upon specialism or case type.

**083-3. Who is responsible for setting the individual targets for each public prosecutor**

[ ] Executive power (for example the Ministry of Justice)

[ ] Prosecutor General /State public prosecutor

[ ] Public Prosecutorial Council

[ X ] Head of the organisational unit or hierarchically superior public prosecutor

[ ] Other (please specify): .....

[ ] NAP

Comments

**120. Is there a system of qualitative individual assessment of the public prosecutors' work?**

( X ) Yes

( ) No

Comments

**120-1. If yes, please specify the frequency of this assessment:**

( ) Annual

( ) Less frequent

( X ) More frequent

Comments

**C4. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part**

Sources: -Dip sampling of cases by senior managers.  
-Line management assessment (e.g. prosecutor performance at court).  
-Annual and in-year performance reviews.

---

## 4.Fair trial

### 4.1.Principles

#### 4.1.1Principles of fair trial

**084. Percentage of first instance criminal in absentia judgments (cases in which the suspect is not attending the hearing in person nor is represented by a lawyer)?**

[            ]

[ X ] NA

[ ] NAP

Comments - Please add methodology for calculation used.

**085. Is there a procedure to effectively challenge a judge (recusal), if a party considers that the judge is not impartial?**

( X ) Yes

(   ) No

Comments - Please could you briefly specify: There is a Judicial Complaint procedure administered by the Office of the Lord Chief Justice

**085-1. If yes, what is the ratio between the total number of initiated procedures and the total number of recusals pronounced (in the reference year):**

[            ]

[ X ] NA

Comments

**086. Is there in your country a monitoring system for the violations related to Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights?**

[   ] For civil procedures (non-enforcement)

[   ] For civil procedures (timeframe)

[   ] For criminal procedures (timeframe)

[ ] NAP

Comments - Please specify what are the terms and conditions of this monitoring system (information related to acknowledged violations by ECHR at the State/courts level; implementation of internal systems to prevent other violations (that are similar) and if possible to measure an evolution of the established violations):

**086-1. 1 Is there in your country a possibility to review a case after a finding of a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights by the European Court of Human Rights?**

(   ) Yes

( X ) No

[ ] NAP

Comments

## D1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/ni-courts-and-tribunals-service-statistics>

### 4.2. Timeframe of proceedings

#### 4.2.1 General information

##### **087. Are there specific procedures for urgent matters regarding:**

- civil cases
- criminal cases
- administrative cases
- There is no specific procedure for urgent matters

Comments - If yes, please specify: Judicial reviews, emergency protection processes, injunctions, emergency criminal courts, emergency appeal courts

##### **088. Are there simplified procedures for:**

- civil cases (small disputes)
- criminal cases (misdemeanour cases)
- administrative cases
- There is no simplified procedure

Comments - If yes, please specify: Default judgment procedures exist in the civil cases and administrative cases. Criminal cases include fixed penalty cases issued by prosecuting authorities and enforced by the court.

##### **088-1. For these simplified procedures, may judges deliver an oral judgement with a written order and without the full reasoning of the judgement ?**

- civil cases
- criminal cases
- administrative cases

Comments - If yes, please specify: Small claims courts

##### **089. Do courts and lawyers have the possibility to conclude agreements on arrangements for processing cases (presentation of files, decisions on timeframes for lawyers to submit their conclusions and on dates of hearings)?**

- Yes
- No

Comments - If yes, please specify: Case progression officers are in place in the Criminal Courts and case management by the Judiciary exists in the majority of the business areas.

#### 4.2.2 Case flow management – first instance

091. First instance courts: number of other than criminal law cases.

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the first instance court
<b>Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	38 769 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	24 254 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>1. Civil (and commercial) litigious cases (including litigious enforcement cases and if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2. Non litigious cases (2.1+2.2+2.3)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.1. General civil (and commercial) non-litigious cases, e.g. uncontested payment orders, request for a change of name, non-litigious enforcement cases etc. (if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3; without registry cases and other cases, see categories 2.2 and 2.3)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.2. Registry cases (2.2.1+2.2.2+2.2.3)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.2.1. Non litigious land registry cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.2.2 Non-litigious business registry cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.2.3. Other registry cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.3. Other non-litigious cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>3. Administrative law cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>4. Other cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments The provided numbers for incoming and resolved cases reflect a reduction in caseload - figures confirmed by NI Courts and Tribunal Service.



Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the introduction of social distancing measures, the courts in Northern Ireland were required to respond to the necessity of protecting public health. The first lockdown in March 2020 resulted in the closure of most court buildings and vastly reduced capacity in those that remained open. Four court hubs remained open throughout lockdown, but criminal and custody cases, along with urgent Non-Molestation Orders and Care and Protection Orders, were prioritised. Meanwhile, rapid action was taken to facilitate remote hearings. With the exception of three courts where the room capacity was too small to adhere to social distancing requirements, all courts were open by September 2020. Courts continue to be conducted through a combination of face-to-face, telephone, video and hybrid hearings.

**092. If courts deal with “civil (and commercial) non-litigious cases”, please indicate the case categories included:**

. Not available

**093. Please indicate the case categories included in the category "other cases":**

. Not available

**094. First instance courts: number of criminal law cases.**

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the first instance court
<b>Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	31 451 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	28 531 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>1. Severe criminal cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2. Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>3. Other criminal cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If you cannot make a distinction between misdemeanour criminal cases and severe criminal cases (according to the CEPEJ definitions), please specify what cases are reported in those categories. If “Other criminal cases”, please specify The provided numbers for incoming and resolved cases reflect a reduction in caseload - figures confirmed by NI Courts and Tribunal Service.

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the introduction of social distancing measures, the courts in Northern Ireland were required to respond to the necessity of protecting public health. The first lockdown in March 2020 resulted in the closure of most court buildings and vastly reduced capacity in those that remained open. Four court hubs remained open throughout lockdown, but criminal and custody cases, along with urgent Non-Molestation Orders and Care and Protection Orders, were prioritised. Meanwhile, rapid action was taken to facilitate remote hearings. With the exception of three courts where the room capacity was too small to adhere to social distancing requirements, all courts were open by September 2020. Courts continue to be conducted through a combination of face-

## 4.2.3 Case flow management – second instance

### 097. Second instance courts (appeal): Number of “other than criminal law” cases.

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the second instance court
<b>Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>1. Civil (and commercial) litigious cases (including litigious enforcement cases and if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2. Non litigious cases (2.1+2.2+2.3)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.1. General civil (and commercial) non-litigious cases, e.g. uncontested payment orders, request for a change of name, non-litigious enforcement cases etc. (if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3; without registry cases and other cases, see categories 2.2 and 2.3)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.2. Registry cases (2.2.1+2.2.2+2.2.3)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.2.1. Non litigious land registry cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.2.2 Non-litigious business registry cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.2.3. Other registry cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.3. Other non-litigious cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>3. Administrative law cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP

4. Other cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If "Other cases" please specify

#### 098. Second instance courts (appeal): Number of criminal law cases.

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the second instance court
<b>Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>1. Severe criminal cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2. Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>3. Other cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If you cannot make a distinction between misdemeanour criminal cases and severe criminal cases (according to the CEPEJ definitions), please indicate the categories of cases reported in the category "serious offences" and cases reported in the category "minor offences". If "Other cases", please specify.

#### 4.2.4 Case flow management – Supreme Court

#### 099. Highest instance courts (Supreme Court): Number of "other than criminal law" cases:

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the Supreme Court
<b>Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>1. Civil (and commercial) litigious cases (including litigious enforcement cases and if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2. Non litigious cases (2.1+2.2+2.3)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

<b>2.1. General civil (and commercial) non-litigious cases, e.g. uncontested payment orders, request for a change of name, non-litigious enforcement cases etc. (if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3; without registry cases and other cases, see categories 2.2 and 2.3)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.2. Registry cases (2.2.1+2.2.2+2.2.3)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.2.1. Non litigious land registry cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.2.2 Non-litigious business registry cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.2.3. Other registry cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2.3. Other non-litigious cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>3. Administrative law cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>4. Other cases</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments - If "Other cases", please specify

**099-1. At the level of the Highest court (Supreme Court), is there a procedure of manifest inadmissibility?**

( ) Yes, please indicate the number of cases closed by this procedure: .....

( X ) No

Comments

**100. Highest instance courts (Supreme Court): Number of criminal law cases.**

	<b>Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year</b>	<b>Incoming cases</b>	<b>Resolved cases</b>	<b>Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year</b>	<b>Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the Supreme Court</b>
<b>Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP

<b>1. Severe criminal cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2. Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>3. Other criminal cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comment - If you cannot make a distinction between misdemeanour criminal cases and severe criminal cases (according to the CEPEJ definitions), please specify what cases are reported in those categories.. If “Other criminal cases”, please specify

#### 4.2.5 Case flow management and timeframes – specific cases

##### 101. Number of specific litigious cases received and processed by first instance courts.

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec ref. year	Pending for more than 2 years
<b>Litigious divorce cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Employment dismissal cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Insolvency</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Robbery case</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Intentional homicide</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

=

##### 101-0. Number of procedures/cases relating to asylum seekers and to the right of entry and stay for aliens.

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec ref. year	Pending for more than 2 years
<b>Non-court procedures relating to asylum seekers (refugee status under the 1951 Geneva Convention)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Non-court procedures relating to the right of entry and stay for aliens</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

<b>Court cases relating to asylum seekers (refugee status under the 1951 Geneva Convention)</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>Court cases relating to the right of entry and stay for aliens</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments

**101-1. Could you briefly describe the system in your country dealing with legal remedies relating to asylum seekers (refugee status under the 1951 Geneva Convention) and the right of entry and stay for aliens:**

. The First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum) is a UK wide tribunal responsible for handling appeals against some decisions made by the Home Office relating to:

- permission to stay in the UK
- deportation from the UK
- entry clearance to the UK

NI Courts and Tribunal Service provides administrative support for cases listed by the Tribunal in Northern Ireland but does not retain business statistics on its behalf. This information would be held independently by IAT.

**101-2. Number of cases relating to child sexual abuse and child pornography received and processed by first instance courts.**

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the first instance court
<b>Child sexual abuse</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>Child pornography</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments - Please explain what are the legal definitions of these categories of offences in your system:

**102. Percentage of decisions subject to appeal, average length of proceedings and percentage of cases pending for more than 3 years for all instances for specific litigious cases. The average length of proceedings has to be calculated from the date the application for judicial review is lodged to the date the judgment is made, without taking into account the investigation phase in criminal cases as well as enforcement procedure.**

	% of decisions subject to appeal	Average length in 1st instance (in days)	Average length in 2nd instance (in days)	Average length in 3rd instance (in days)	Average total length of the total procedure (in days)	% of cases pending for more than 3 years for all instances
<b>Civil and commercial litigious cases</b>	_____ Max numeric value allowed : 100  [ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	_____ Max numeric value allowed : 100  [ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>Litigious divorce cases</b>	_____ Max numeric value allowed : 100  [ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	_____ Max numeric value allowed : 100  [ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>Employment dismissal cases</b>	_____ Max numeric value allowed : 100  [ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	_____ Max numeric value allowed : 100  [ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>Insolvency cases</b>	_____ Max numeric value allowed : 100  [ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	_____ Max numeric value allowed : 100  [ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>Robbery cases</b>	_____ Max numeric value allowed : 100  [ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	_____ Max numeric value allowed : 100  [ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>Intentional homicide cases</b>	_____ Max numeric value allowed : 100  [ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	_____ Max numeric value allowed : 100  [ X ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments

**103. Where appropriate, please indicate the specific procedure regarding divorce cases (litigious and non-litigious):**

. In Northern Ireland, marriage and Civil Partnership Agreements (civil contracts between same sex couples) can be dissolved through divorce, nullity and dissolution proceedings. All are litigious, there is no non-litigious option in Northern Ireland. Proceedings are commenced by way of petition and in the case of marital or civil partnership breakdown the petition may not be presented to the court before the expiration of the period of two years from the date of the marriage or civil partnership agreement. There is no time requirement for nullity proceedings. Parties may also petition the court for judicial separation proceedings which if a decree is granted mean that the petitioner is no longer obliged to cohabit with the respondent and effects how property is devolved on the death of an intestate party to the marriage.

**104. How is the length of proceedings calculated for the six case categories of question 102? Please give a description of the calculation method.**

. Not available

#### 4.2.6 Case flow management – public prosecution

**105. Role and powers of the public prosecutor in the criminal procedure (multiple options possible):**

- to conduct or supervise police investigation
- to conduct investigations
- when necessary, to request investigation measures from the judge
- to charge
- to present the case in court
- to propose a sentence to the judge
- to appeal
- to supervise the enforcement procedure
- to discontinue a case without needing a decision by a judge (ensure consistency with question 36!)
- to end the case by imposing or negotiating a penalty or measure without requiring a judicial decision
- other significant powers (please specify): Use of diversions (e.g. caution) as an alternative to prosecution.

Comments

**106. Does the public prosecutor also have a role in:**

- civil cases
- administrative cases
- insolvency cases

Comments - If yes, please specify: NAP

**107. Public prosecutors: Total number of 1st instance criminal cases.**

	Number of cases
<b>1. Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year</b>	8 416 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2. Incoming/received cases</b>	40 656 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>3. Processed cases (3.1+3.2+3.3+3.4)</b>	45 628 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP



3.1. Discontinued during the reference year (3.1.1+3.1.2+3.1.3+3.1.4.)	13 568 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
3.1.1 Discontinued by the public prosecutor because the offender could not be identified	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
3.1.2 Discontinued by the public prosecutor due to the lack of an established offence or a specific legal situation	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
3.1.3 Discontinued by the public prosecutor for reasons of opportunity	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
3.1.4 Discontinued for other reasons	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
3.2. Concluded by a penalty or a measure imposed or negotiated by the public prosecutor	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
3.3. Cases closed by the public prosecutor for other reasons	2 876 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
3.4. Cases brought to court	29 184 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
4. Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year	3 444 [ ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments (3.2) was completed in error instead of 3.3 (diversionary decisions) and this has been rectified.

**107-1. If the guilty plea procedure exists, how many cases were concluded by this procedure?**

	Total	Severe criminal cases	Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases
Total number of guilty plea procedures	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
Before the main trial	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
During the main trial	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments

**109. Do the figures provided in Q107 include traffic offence cases?**

( X ) Yes

( ) No

Comments

**D2. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part**

Sources: PPS Case Management System.

## 5. Career of judges and public prosecutors

### 5.1. Recruitment and promotion

#### 5.1.1 Recruitment and promotion of judges

##### 110. How are judges recruited?

- mainly through a competitive exam (open competition)
- mainly through a recruitment procedure for experienced legal professionals (for example experienced lawyers)
- a combination of both (competitive exam and working experience)
- other (please specify): .....

Comments

##### 111. Authority(ies) responsible for recruitment - are judges initially/at the beginning of their career recruited and nominated by:

- An authority made up of judges only
- An authority made up of non-judges only
- An authority/authorities made up of judges and non-judges
- Other

Comments - Please indicate the name of the authority(ies) involved in the whole procedure of recruitment and nomination of judges. If there are several authorities, please describe their respective roles:

##### 111-1. How many members compose this authority?

	Total	Male	Female
<b>Members</b>	12	8	4
	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments – Please specify what is the status of this authority and who is proposing its members?

##### 111-2. May non-selected candidates appeal against the decision on recruitment/appointment?

- Yes
- No

Comments – please specify which body is competent to decide on appeal?

##### 112. Is the same authority (Q111) competent for the promotion of judges?

- Yes
- No

Comments

##### 113. What is the procedure for the promotion of judges? (multiple answers possible)

- Competitive test / Exam

Other procedure (interview or other)

No special procedure

Comments - Please specify how the promotion procedure for judges is organised (especially if there is no competition or examination):

### **113-1. Please indicate the criteria used for the promotion of a judge? (multiple replies possible)**

Years of experience

Professional skills (and/or qualitative performance)

Performance (quantitative)

Subjective criteria (e.g. integrity, reputation)

Other

No criteria

Comments - Please specify any useful comment regarding the criteria (especially if you have checked the box “performance” or “other”):

## **5.1.2 Status, recruitment and promotion of prosecutors**

### **115. What is the status of public prosecution services?**

Has an independent status as a separate entity among state institutions

Is part of the executive power but enjoys functional independence (please briefly explain how and to what extent)

Is part of the executive power (without functional independence)

Is part of the judicial power but enjoys functional independence (please briefly explain how and to what extent)

Is part of the judicial power (without functional independence)

Is a mixed model (please explain)

Has other status (please explain)

Comments - When appropriate, please specify the objective guarantees of this independence (such as funding) and where they are enshrined (Constitution, legislation etc.). Furthermore, if “mixed model” or “other”, please specify.

### **115-1. Does the law or other regulation prevent specific instructions to prosecute or not, addressed to a public prosecutor?**

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify:

### **115-2. If you answered “Yes” to Q115-1, are there exceptions provided by the law/regulations?**

Yes

No

Comments - Please describe these exceptions:

### **115-3. If you answered “No” to Q115-1, which authority can issue the specific instructions?**

General Prosecutor

Higher prosecutor/Head of prosecution office

Executive power

Other

Comments - If "Other", please specify:

#### **115-4. What form these instructions may take?**

- Oral instruction
- Oral instruction with written confirmation
- Written instruction
- Other
- NAP

Comments - If "Other", please specify:

#### **115-5. In that case, are the instructions:**

- Issued seeking prior advice from the competent public prosecutor
- Mandatory
- Reasoned
- Recorded in the case file
- Other
- NAP

Comments - If "Other", please specify:

#### **115-6. What is the frequency of this type of instructions:**

- Exceptional
- Occasional
- Frequent
- Systematic
- NAP

Comments

#### **115-7. Can the public prosecutor oppose/report an instruction to an independent body?**

- Yes
- No
- NAP

Comments - If yes, please specify to which body/institution and please describe under which conditions.

#### **116. How are public prosecutors recruited?**

- mainly through a competitive exam (open competition)
- mainly through a recruitment procedure for experienced legal professionals (for example experienced lawyers)
- a combination of both (competitive exam and working experience)
- other (please specify): .....

Comments

**117. Authority(ies) responsible for recruitment - Are public prosecutors initially/at the beginning of their career recruited by:**

- An authority composed of public prosecutors only
- An authority composed of non-public prosecutors only
- An authority composed of public prosecutors and non-public prosecutors
- Other

Comments - Please indicate the name of the authority(ies) involved in the whole procedure of recruitment and nomination of public prosecutors. If there are several authorities, please describe their respective roles:

**117-1. How many members compose this authority?**

	Total	Male	Female
<b>Members</b>	438	156	282
	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - Please specify what is the status of this authority and who is proposing its members?

**117-2. May non-selected candidates appeal against the decision on recruitment/appointment?**

- Yes
- No

Comments - Please specify which body is competent to decide on appeal?

**118. Is the same authority (Q.117) formally responsible for the promotion of public prosecutors?**

- Yes
- No, please specify which authority is competent for promoting public prosecutors .....

Comments

**119. What is the procedure for the promotion of prosecutors? (multiple answers possible)**

- Competitive test / exam
- Other procedure (interview or other)
- No special procedure

Comments - Please specify how the promotion procedure for prosecutors is organised (especially if there is no competition or examination):

**119-2. Please indicate the criteria used for the promotion of a prosecutor:**

- Years of experience
- Professional skills (and/or qualitative performance)
- Performance (quantitative)
- Subjective criteria (e.g. integrity, reputation)
- Other
- No criteria

### 5.1.3Mandate and retirement of judges and prosecutors



**121. Are judges appointed to office for an undetermined period (i.e. "for life" = until the official age of retirement)?**

Yes, please indicate the compulsory retirement age:70

No

Comments - If yes, are there exceptions (e.g. dismissal as a disciplinary sanction)? Please specify:

**121-1. Can a judge be transferred to another court without his/her consent:**

For disciplinary reasons

For organisational reasons

For other reasons (please specify modalities and safeguards): .....

No

Comments

**122. Is there a probation period for judges (e.g. before being appointed "for life")? If yes, how long is this period?**

Yes, duration of the probation period (in years): .....

No

Comments

**123. Are public prosecutors appointed to office for an undetermined period (i.e. "for life" = until the official age of retirement)?**

Yes, please indicate the compulsory retirement age:NA

No

Comments - If yes, are there exceptions (e.g. dismissal as a disciplinary sanction)? Please specify: Dismissal as a disciplinary sanction

**124. Is there a probation period for public prosecutors? If yes, how long is this period?**

Yes, duration of the probation period (in years):1

No

Comments

**125. If the mandate for judges is not for an undetermined period (see question 121), what is the length of the mandate (in years)?**

[            ]

NA

NAP

Comments

**125-1. Is it renewable?**

- ( ) Yes  
 ( ) No  
 NAP

Comments

**126. If the mandate for public prosecutors is not for an undetermined period (see question 123), what is the length of the mandate (in years)?**

- [            ]  
 NA  
 NAP

Comments

**126-1. Is it renewable?**

- ( ) Yes  
 ( ) No  
 NAP

Comments

**E1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part**

Sources: Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Scheme

## 5.2. Training

### 5.2.1 Training of judges

**127. Types of different trainings offered to judges:**

	Compulsory	Optional	No training proposed
<b>Initial training (e.g. attend a judicial school, traineeship in a court)</b>	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>General in-service training</b>	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>In-service training for specialised judicial functions (e.g. judge for economic or administrative issues)</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>In-service training for management functions of the court (e.g. court president)</b>	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>In-service training for the use of computer facilities in courts</b>	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No

<b>In-service training on ethics</b>	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>In-service training on child-friendly justice</b>	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No

Comments

## 128. Frequency of the in-service training of judges:

	Frequency of the judges training
<b>General in-service training</b>	[ X ] Regularly (for example every year) [ ] Occasional (as needed) [ ] No training proposed
<b>In-service training for specialised judicial functions (e.g. judge for economic or administrative issues)</b>	[ ] Regularly (for example every year) [ X ] Occasional (as needed) [ ] No training proposed
<b>In-service training for management functions of the court (e.g. court president)</b>	[ ] Regularly (for example every year) [ X ] Occasional (as needed) [ ] No training proposed
<b>In-service training for the use of computer facilities in courts</b>	[ ] Regularly (for example every year) [ X ] Occasional (as needed) [ ] No training proposed
<b>In-service training on ethics</b>	[ ] Regularly (for example every year) [ X ] Occasional (as needed) [ ] No training proposed
<b>In-service training on child-friendly justice</b>	[ ] Regularly (for example every year) [ X ] Occasional (as needed) [ ] No training proposed

Comments - Please indicate any information on the periodicity of the continuous training of judges: Judges are invited to JSB training events that are appropriate to their tier. Judges are invited to make applications for funding to attend external conferences and training courses that are relevant to their area of work.

JSB provides specialised training for Judges who are selected to be ticketed for Homicide Trials, Extradition Cases and Serious Sexual Offences.

## 5.2.2 Training of prosecutors

### 129. Types of different trainings offered to public prosecutors:

	Compulsory	Optional	No training proposed
<b>Initial training</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No



<b>General in-service training</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>In-service training for specialised functions (e.g. public prosecutors specialised in organised crime)</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>In-service training for management functions (e.g. Head of prosecution office, manager)</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>In-service training for the use of computer facilities in office</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>In-service training on ethics</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No
<b>In-service training on child-friendly justice</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No	( ) Yes ( X ) No

Comments

### 130. Frequency of the in-service training of public prosecutors :

	Frequency of the in-service training
<b>General in-service training</b>	[ X ] Regularly (for example every year) [ ] Occasional (as needed) [ ] No training proposed
<b>In-service training for specialised functions (e.g. public prosecutor specialised in organised crime)</b>	[ X ] Regularly (for example every year) [ ] Occasional (as needed) [ ] No training proposed
<b>In-service training for management functions (e.g. Head of prosecution office, manager)</b>	[ X ] Regularly (for example every year) [ ] Occasional (as needed) [ ] No training proposed
<b>In-service training for the use of computer facilities in office</b>	[ ] Regularly (for example every year) [ X ] Occasional (as needed) [ ] No training proposed
<b>In-service training on ethics</b>	[ X ] Regularly (for example every year) [ ] Occasional (as needed) [ ] No training proposed
<b>In-service training on child-friendly justice</b>	[ X ] Regularly (for example every year) [ ] Occasional (as needed) [ ] No training proposed

Comments - Please indicate any information on the periodicity of the in-service training of prosecutors: As and when required - delivery still takes place within an annual cycle.

### 5.2.3 Training institutions

### 131. Do you have public training institutions for judges and / or prosecutors?

	Initial training only	Continuous training only	Initial and continuous training
Institution(s) for judges	[ ]	[ ]	[ X ]
Institution(s) for prosecutors	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Institution(s) for both judges and prosecutors	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

Comments Not for prosecutors

### 131-0. If yes, what is the budget of such institution(s)?

	Budget of the institution(s) for the reference year, in €
Institution(s) for judges	112 000 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
Institution(s) for prosecutors	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
Institution(s) for both judges and prosecutors	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP

Comments

### 131-1. If judges and/or prosecutors have no compulsory initial training in such institutions, please indicate briefly how these judges and/or prosecutors are trained?

. •Every new judge, on appointment, is provided with tier appropriate induction training, mentoring from a peer and the opportunity to shadow a colleague.

- Attendance at continuous training events is voluntary.
- The programme in any given year will reflect the perceived needs for judicial training in that year and is determined by a number of factors including: developments in case law; newly commenced legislation; feedback from the judiciary; and, initiatives of the Lord Chief Justice (LCJ).
- Most continuous training events last approximately one hour. •Induction training will cover a range of topics delivered over a sequence of days, some of which will involve residential attendance.
- JSB is a member of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and the International Association of Judges (IAJ).

Judges and Prosecutors are both recruited by means of an external competition. In-house training is provided by the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission in respect of judges, and the PPS in respect of prosecutors.

## 5.2.4 Number of trainings

### 131-2. Number of in-service training courses available and delivered (in days) by the public institution(s) responsible for training

	Number of in-person training courses available	Number of delivered in-person training courses in days	Online training courses available during the reference year (e-learning)
<b>Total</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>1. For judges</b>	19 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	23 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2. For prosecutors</b>	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
<b>3. For other non-judge staff</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>4. For other non-prosecutor staff</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>5. Ttraining for other professionals</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments – please specify if there are training courses of judges and/or prosecutors that include other professionals in the field of justice.

### 131-3. Number of participants of the training courses during the reference year

	Number of participants in in-person training courses	Number of participants in online training courses (e-learning)
<b>Total</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>Judges</b>	202 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>Prosecutors</b>	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
<b>Non-judge staff</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>Non-prosecutor staff</b>	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
<b>Other professionals</b>	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP	[ X ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments

## 5.3.Practice of the profession

### 5.3.1Salaries and benefits of judges and prosecutors

#### 132. Salaries of judges and public prosecutors on 31 December of the reference year:

	Gross annual salary, in €	Net annual salary, in €	Gross annual salary, in local currency	Net annual salary, in local currency
First instance professional judge at the beginning of his/her career	134 818 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	82 417 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	114 793 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	70 160 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
Judge of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court (please indicate the average salary of a judge at this level, and not the salary of the Court President)	257 687 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	138 302 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	219 396 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	117 752 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
Public prosecutor at the beginning of his/her career	44 392 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	32 577 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	38 017 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	27 899 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
Public prosecutor of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Instance (please indicate the average salary of a public prosecutor at this level, and not the salary of the Attorney General).	77 154 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	51 441 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	66 075 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	44 054 [ ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments Judicial salaries for the excepted judiciary in NI are determined by the Lord Chancellor and the Ministry of Justice publish judicial salaries at the following link.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1020732/judicial-fee-salary-21-22.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1020732/judicial-fee-salary-21-22.pdf)

First instance judges are paid salary group 7 and Judge of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court (please indicate the average salary of a judge at this level, and not the salary of the Court President) is paid salary group 3. There was a 2% pay increase effective from 1 April 2020 and a pay freeze from 1 April 2021.

### 133. Do judges and public prosecutors have additional benefits?

	Judges	Public prosecutors
Reduced taxation	( ) Yes (X) No	( ) Yes (X) No
Special pension	( ) Yes (X) No	( ) Yes (X) No
Housing	( ) Yes (X) No	( ) Yes (X) No
Other financial benefit	( ) Yes (X) No	( ) Yes (X) No

Comments

### 134. If “other financial benefit”, please specify:

[X] NAP

### 135. Can judges combine their work with any of the following functions/activities?

	With remuneration	Without remuneration
Teaching	( ) Yes (X) No	( ) Yes (X) No
Research and publication	( ) Yes (X) No	( ) Yes (X) No
Arbitrator	( ) Yes (X) No	( ) Yes (X) No
Consultant	( ) Yes (X) No	( ) Yes (X) No
Cultural function	( ) Yes (X) No	( ) Yes (X) No
Political function	( ) Yes (X) No	( ) Yes (X) No
Mediator	( ) Yes (X) No	( ) Yes (X) No
Other function	( ) Yes (X) No	( ) Yes (X) No

Comments - If rules exist in your country (e.g. authorisation needed to perform these activities), please specify. If "other function", please specify. NAP

### 137. Can public prosecutors combine their work with any of the following functions/activities?

	With remuneration	Without remuneration
Teaching	(X) Yes ( ) No	(X) Yes ( ) No
Research and publication	(X) Yes ( ) No	(X) Yes ( ) No
Arbitrator	(X) Yes ( ) No	(X) Yes ( ) No
Consultant	(X) Yes ( ) No	(X) Yes ( ) No
Cultural function	(X) Yes ( ) No	(X) Yes ( ) No
Political function	(X) Yes ( ) No	(X) Yes ( ) No
Mediator	(X) Yes ( ) No	(X) Yes ( ) No
Other function	(X) Yes ( ) No	(X) Yes ( ) No

Comments - If rules exist in your country (e.g. authorisation needed to perform these activities), please specify. If "other function", please

specify:

**139. Productivity bonuses: do judges receive bonuses based on the fulfilment of quantitative objectives in relation to the number of resolved cases (e.g. number of cases resolved over a given period of time)?**

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify the conditions and if possible the amounts:

### 5.3.2 Body/institution of ethics

**138. Is there in your country an institution / body giving opinions on ethical questions of the conduct of judges (e.g. involvement in political life, use of social media by judges, etc.)**

Yes

No

Comments

**138-1. If yes, who are the members of this institution/body?**

Only judges

Judges and other legal professionals

Other, please specify: .....

Comments

**138-2. Are the opinions of this institution / body publicly available?**

Yes

No

[ ] NAP

Comments - Please describe the work of this institution / body, the frequency of opinions, etc.

**138-3. Is there in your country an institution / body giving opinions on ethical questions of the conduct of prosecutors (e.g. involvement in political life, use of social media by prosecutors, etc.)**

Yes

No

Comments

**138-4. If yes, who are the members of this institution/body?**

Only prosecutors

Prosecutors and other legal professionals

Other, please specify: .....

Comments

**138-5. Are the opinions of this institution / body publicly available?**

Yes

No

NAP

Comments - Please describe the work of this institution / body, the frequency of opinions, etc.

## 5.4. Disciplinary procedures

### 5.4.1 Authorities responsible for disciplinary procedures and sanctions

#### 140. Who is authorised to initiate disciplinary proceedings against judges (multiple replies possible)?

Court users

Relevant Court or hierarchical superior

High Court / Supreme Court

High Judicial Council

Disciplinary court

Disciplinary body (disciplinary prosecutor, investigator etc.)

Ombudsman

Parliament

Executive power (please specify): .....

Other (please specify): Lord Chief Justice (Northern Ireland) a Lord Justice of Appeal, Tribunal Presidents/Chairmen. [Another Lord Chief Justice, a Justice of the Supreme Court – only for serious complaints against the LCJ NI].

This is not possible

Comments

#### 141. Who is authorised to initiate disciplinary proceedings against public prosecutors: (multiple replies possible):

Citizens

Head of the organisational unit or hierarchical superior public prosecutor

Prosecutor General /State public prosecutor

Public prosecutorial Council (High Judicial Council)

Disciplinary court

Disciplinary body (disciplinary prosecutor, investigator etc.)

Ombudsman

Professional body

Executive power (please specify): .....

Other (please specify): .....

This is not possible

Comments

#### 142. Which authority has disciplinary power over judges? (multiple replies possible)

- Court
- Higher Court / Supreme Court
- High Judicial Council
- Disciplinary court or body
- Ombudsman
- Parliament
- Executive power (please specify): .....

Other (please specify): Lord Chief Justice (Northern Ireland) a Lord Justice of Appeal, Tribunal Presidents/Chairmen. [Another Lord Chief Justice, a Justice of the Supreme Court – only for serious complaints against the LCJ NI].

Comments

### 143. Which authority has disciplinary power over public prosecutors? (multiple replies possible)

- Supreme Court
- Head of the organisational unit or hierarchical superior
- Prosecutor General /State public prosecutor
- Public prosecutorial Council (High Judicial Council)
- Disciplinary court or body
- Ombudsman
- Professional body
- Executive power (please specify): .....
- Other (please specify): .....

Comments

### 5.4.2 Number of disciplinary procedures and sanctions

144. Number of disciplinary proceedings initiated during the reference year against judges and public prosecutors. (If a disciplinary proceeding is undertaken because of several reasons, please count the proceedings only once and for the main reason.)

	Judges	Prosecutors
<b>Total number (1+2+3+4)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>1. Breach of professional ethics</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2. Professional inadequacy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>3. Criminal offence</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP



<b>4. Other</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
-----------------	---	---

Comments - If "other", please specify:

**145. Number of sanctions pronounced during the reference year against judges and public prosecutors:**

	<b>Judges</b>	<b>Prosecutors</b>
<b>Total number (total 1 to 10)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>1. Reprimand</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2. Suspension</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>3. Withdrawal from cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>4. Fine</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>5. Temporary reduction of salary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>6. Position downgrade</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>7. Transfer to another geographical (court) location</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>8. Resignation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>9. Other</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>10. Dismissal</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify. If a significant difference exists between the number of disciplinary proceedings and the number of sanctions, please indicate the reasons.

**E3. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part**

Sources: Office of the Lord Chief Justice

## 6.Lawyers

### 6.1.Profession of lawyer

#### 6.1.1Status of the profession of lawyers

##### 146. Total number of lawyers practising in your country:

	Total	Male	Female
Number of lawyers	814 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments Practising barristers includes independent practitioners working from the Bar Library (681), employed (67) and independent members working from other locations (66). The male figure of 444 and female figure of 237 relates only to independent practitioners working from the Bar Library. This info is not held for employed and independent members working from other locations.

##### 147. Does this figure include “legal advisors” who cannot represent their clients in court (for example, some solicitors or in-house counsellors)?

Yes ( )

No ( X )

Comments

##### 148. Number of legal advisors who cannot represent their clients in court:

[ ]

NA

NAP

Comments

=

##### 149. Is legal representation in courts exclusively exercised by lawyers in: (multiple replies possible)

	First instance	Second instance	Highest instance court (Supreme Court)
Civil cases	( ) Yes always ( ) Yes in some cases ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes always ( ) Yes in some cases ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes always ( ) Yes in some cases ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Dismissal cases	( ) Yes always ( ) Yes in some cases ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes always ( ) Yes in some cases ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes always ( ) Yes in some cases ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Criminal cases – Defendant	( ) Yes always ( ) Yes in some cases ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes always ( ) Yes in some cases ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes always ( ) Yes in some cases ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

<b>Criminal cases – Victim</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes always <input type="checkbox"/> Yes in some cases <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes always <input type="checkbox"/> Yes in some cases <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes always <input type="checkbox"/> Yes in some cases <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Administrative cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes always <input type="checkbox"/> Yes in some cases <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes always <input type="checkbox"/> Yes in some cases <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes always <input type="checkbox"/> Yes in some cases <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - Please indicate any useful clarifications regarding the content of lawyers' exclusive rights: There is no monopoly.

**149-0. If other than lawyers may represent a client in court, please specify who:**

	First instance	Second instance	Highest instance court (Supreme Court)
<b>Civil society organisation</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Family member</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Self-representation</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Trade union</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Other</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comments - If "other", please specify. In addition, for the categories selected please specify the types of cases concerned by this/these representation(s): Solicitors, Solicitor Advocates

**149-1. In addition to the functions of legal representation and legal advice, can a lawyer exercise other activities?**

- Notarial activity
- Arbitration / mediation
- Proxy / representation
- Property manager
- Real estate agent
- Other law activities (please specify): .....

Comments

**149-2. What are the statuses for exercising the profession of lawyer?**

- Self-employed lawyer
- Staff lawyer
- In-house lawyer

Comments

**150. Is the lawyer profession organised through:**

- a national bar association

a regional bar association

a local bar association

Comments

**151. Is there a specific initial training and/or exam to enter the profession of lawyer?**

Yes

No

Comments - Please indicate if there are other specific requirements as regards diplomas or university degrees:

**152. Is there a mandatory general in-service professional training system for lawyers?**

Yes

No

Comments

**153. Is the specialisation in some legal fields linked to specific training, levels of qualification, specific diploma or specific authorisations?**

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify: Barristers with specific practices are organised in Bar Associations which provide specialist professional training and representation. They must also satisfy mandatory CPD requirements annually on their application for a practising certificate. The Bar Council is also developing vulnerable witness training and resources for barristers working in civil/criminal cases which is due to launch in 2021. Barristers who wish to become Senior Counsel must complete an independent appointment process to attain the rank of Queen's Counsel.

**F1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part**

Sources: The Bar Council of Northern Ireland

**6.1.2 Practicing the profession**

**154. Can court users establish easily what the lawyers' fees will be (i.e. a prior information on the foreseeable amount of fees)?**

Yes

No

Comments This varies between criminal and civil practice. However, if it's a legally aided case, the client is not required to pay and the government payer generally operates a standard fee mechanism. In certain areas such as arbitration and mediation publicly quoted fees are available.

**155. Are lawyers' fees freely negotiated?**

Yes

No

Comments In publicly funded work, fees are increasingly laid out in statutory rules/practice directions/guidelines as standardised or scale fees. In privately funded work, the fee will depend on a high number of variables so can be obtained on request from the barrister and some negotiation on fees may be possible.

**156. Do laws or bar standards provide any rules on lawyers' fees (including those freely negotiated)?**

- Yes, laws provide rules
- Yes, standards of the bar association provide rules
- No, neither laws nor bar association standards provide rules

Comments Practising barristers are subject to the Bar Council's Bar of Conduct and Constitution of Bye-Laws of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland which provide rules on fees and remuneration. Fees for publicly funded work laid out in statutory rules are accompanied by explanatory notes and guidelines on the procedure for claiming fees from the Legal Services Agency.

**6.1.3 Quality standards and disciplinary procedures**

**157. Have quality standards been determined for lawyers?**

- Yes
- No

Comments - If yes, what are the quality criteria used?

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

- the bar association
- the Parliament
- other (please specify): The Bar Council of Northern Ireland as the regulatory body.

Comments

**159. Is it possible to file a complaint about:**

- the performance of lawyers
- the amount of fees

Comments - Please specify:

**160. Which authority is responsible for disciplinary procedures?**

- a judge
- Ministry of Justice
- a professional authority
- other (please specify): .....

Comments

**161. Disciplinary proceedings initiated against lawyers. (If a disciplinary proceeding is undertaken because of several reasons, please count the proceedings only once and for the main reason.)**

Number of disciplinary proceedings
------------------------------------

<b>Total number of disciplinary proceedings initiated (1 + 2 + 3 + 4)</b>	4 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>1. Breach of professional ethics</b>	4 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2. Professional inadequacy</b>	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>3. Criminal offence</b>	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>4. Other</b>	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify: Note that the breach of professional ethics category is used to refer to breaches of the Bar Council of Northern Ireland's Code of Conduct.

## 162. Sanctions pronounced against lawyers.

	Number of sanctions
<b>Total number of sanctions (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5)</b>	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>1. Reprimand</b>	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>2. Suspension</b>	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>3. Withdrawal from cases</b>	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>4. Fine</b>	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>5. Other</b>	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify. If a significant difference between the number of disciplinary proceedings and the number of sanctions exists, please indicate the reasons. The disciplinary proceedings referred to at 161 are yet to reach a conclusion and therefore any sanctions have not yet been issued.

## 7. Court related mediation and other alternative Dispute Resolution

### 7.1. Court related mediation

#### 7.1.1 Details on court related mediation

### 163. Does the judicial system provide for court-related mediation procedures?

(X) Yes

( ) No

Comments

**163-1. In some fields, does the judicial system provide for mandatory mediation with a mediator?**

Before/instead of going to court

Ordered by the court, the judge, the public prosecutor or a public authority in the course of a judicial proceeding

No mandatory mediation

Comments - If there is mandatory mediation, please specify which fields are concerned:

**163-2. In some fields, does the legal system provide for mandatory informative sessions with a mediator?**

( ) Yes

(X) No

Comments - If there are mandatory informative sessions, please specify which fields are concerned:

**164. Please specify, by type of cases, who provides court-related mediation services:**

	Private mediator	Public authority (other than the court)	Judge	Public prosecutor
<b>Civil and commercial cases</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Family cases</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Administrative cases</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Labour cases including employment dismissals</b>	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Criminal cases</b>	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Consumer cases</b>	( X ) Yes ( ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	( ) Yes ( X ) No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

**165. Is there a possibility to receive legal aid for court-related mediation or receive these services free of charge?**

( ) Yes

( X ) No

NAP

Comments - If yes, please specify (only one or both options)::

=

**166. Number of accredited or registered mediators for court-related mediation:**

	Total	Males	Females
Number of mediators	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments The Court may refer for mediation but it is not mandatory to complete the process.

**167. Number of court-related mediations:**

	Number of cases for which the parties agreed to start mediation	Number of finished court-related mediations	Number of cases in which there is a settlement agreement
<b>Total ( 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>1. Civil and commercial cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2. Family cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>3. Administrative cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>4. Labour cases including employment dismissal cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>5. Criminal cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>6. Consumer cases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - Please indicate the source: The Court may refer for mediation but it is not mandatory to complete.

=

**168. Do the following alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods exist in your country?**

- Mediation other than court-related mediation
- Arbitration
- Conciliation (if different from mediation)
- Other ADR (please specify): .....

Comments

**G1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part**



## 8. Enforcement of court decisions

### 8.1. Execution of decisions in civil matters

#### 8.1.1 Number of enforcement agents, status and mandate



##### 169. Number and type of enforcement agents in your country.

	Total	Male	Female
<b>Total (1+2+3+4)</b>	14 [ ] NA	6 [ ] NA	8 [ ] NA
<b>1. Private professionals under the authority (control) of public authorities</b>	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP
<b>2. Enforcement agents working in a public institution (civil servants paid by state)</b>	13 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	6 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	7 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>3. Judges</b>	1 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	1 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
<b>4. Other</b>	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP	[ ] NA [ X ] NAP

Comments - If other, please specify their status and competences: Figures validated by NI Courts and Tribunal Service for the reporting period. Overall numbers are similar with small changes in absolute terms in the breakdown by gender.

#### 170. What are the requirements to access the profession of enforcement agent (multiple replies possible)?

- [ ] diploma  
 [ X ] professional experience  
 [ ] specific exam  
 [ ] appointment procedure by the State  
 [ X ] initial training  
 [ ] other

Comments - If "other", please specify:

#### 171. Are enforcement agents appointed to office for an undetermined period (i.e. "for life" = until the official age of retirement)?

- ( X ) Yes, please indicate the age of retirement: see comments below  
 ( ) No, please specify the duration of the appointment: .....

## 8.1.2 Activities/scope of competence

171-1. Which debtor's information can the enforcement agent access at the beginning of the enforcement procedure?

	Access to information	Direct electronic access to information
Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Date of birth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Civil status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Cohabitant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Employer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Motor vehicle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Movable property	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Immovable property	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Bank account	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other enforcement proceedings underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Insolvency proceedings (bankruptcy, judicial reorganisation, collective debt settlement etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comments - If "other", please specify: Access to credit records and state benefit information

171-2. Can the enforcement agent carry out the following civil enforcement proceedings:

	Option
Seizure of movable tangible properties	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

<b>Preventive seizure of movable tangible properties</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Seizure of immovable properties</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Preventive seizure of immovable properties</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Seizure from a third party of the debtor claims regarding a sum of money</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Seizure of remunerations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Seizure of motorised vehicles</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Eviction measures</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Seizures of boats and ships</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

<b>Seizure of aircrafts</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Seizure of electronic assets (e.g cryptocurrency)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Enforced sale by public tender of seized properties</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Sale of shares</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Other</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments Regarding “Enforced sale by public tender of seized properties” - In 2018, we took interpreted ‘properties’ as dwelling houses, commercial property etc. In 2020, we re-evaluated the term property. We now give this a wider interpretation to include goods in which the debtor has a saleable interest in his own right.

### **171-3. Apart from the enforcement of court decisions, what are the other activities that can be carried out by enforcement agents?**

- Service of judicial and extrajudicial documents
- Debt recovery
- Voluntary or public auctions of moveable or immovable property
- Custody of goods
- Recording and reporting of evidence
- Court hearings service
- Provision of legal advice
- Bankruptcy procedures
- Performing tasks assigned by judges
- Representing parties in courts

Drawing up private deeds and documents

Building manager

Other

Comments

### **8.1.3 Training and ICT**

**172-1. Is there a system of mandatory general continuous training for enforcement agents?**

Yes

No

Comments

**172-2. Do you have an e-learning training system established for enforcement agents?**

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify: Enforcement Agents can avail of NICS Learning and training packages, related to health & safety and loan working and risk assessments, data protection etc.

**172-3. Does the content of the continuous training system also include ICT (related to enforcement procedures)?**

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify:

**172-4. Have an electronic service of documents or electronic notifications been introduced in your country?**

Yes

No

Comments

**172-5. Does the development of new technologies have an effect on the different stages of the enforcement procedure?**

Yes

No

Comments - Please explain:

### **8.1.4 Fees**

**174. Are enforcement fees easily established and transparent for parties?**

Yes

No

Comments

**175-1. Are the fees charged in case of successful enforcement proceedings freely negotiated?**

Yes

No

Comments

**175-2. Who has to pay these fees if the enforcement proceedings are successful?**

The debtor

The creditor

Other – please specify .....

Comments

**176. Do laws provide any rules on enforcement fees (including those freely negotiated)?**

Yes

No

Comments

**H0. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part**

Source: Section 116 of the Judicature (NI) Act 1978, and the Judgments Enforcement Fees (NI) Order 1996 (as amended)

**8.1.5 Organisation of profession and efficiency of enforcement services**



**177. Is there a body entrusted with supervising and monitoring the enforcement agents' activity?**

Yes

No

Comments

**178. Which authority is responsible for supervising and monitoring enforcement agents?**

professional body

judge

Ministry of Justice

public prosecutor

other (please specify):Northern Ireland Civil Service Policies, carried out by line managers

Comments

**181. Is there a specific mechanism for executing court decisions rendered against public authorities, including supervising such execution?**

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify: The Crown Proceedings Act 1947 (as it applies to the Crown in Northern Ireland)

**182. Is there a system for monitoring how the enforcement procedure is conducted by the enforcement agent?**

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify: NICS Performance Management System and governance checks

**183. What are the main complaints made by users concerning the enforcement procedure? Please indicate a maximum of 3.**

no execution at all

non execution of court decisions against public authorities

lack of information

excessive length

unlawful practices

insufficient supervision

excessive cost

unethical behaviour of enforcement agent

other (please specify): .....

Comments

**185. Is there a system measuring the length of enforcement procedures:**

	Existence of the system
for civil cases	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
for administrative cases	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Comments

**186. Regarding a decision on debt collection, please estimate the average timeframe to serve and/or notify the decision to the parties who live in the city where the court sits (one option only):**

between 1 and 5 days

between 6 and 10 days

between 11 and 30 days

more (please specify): .....

NA

Comments

**187. Number of disciplinary proceedings initiated against enforcement agents. (If a disciplinary proceeding is undertaken because of several reasons, please count the proceedings only once and**

for the main reason.)

	Number of disciplinary proceedings initiated
Total number of initiated disciplinary proceedings (1+2+3+4)	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
1. For breach of professional ethics	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
2. For professional inadequacy	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
3. For criminal offence	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
4. Other	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify:

### 188. Number of sanctions pronounced against enforcement agents:

	Number of sanctions pronounced
Total number of sanctions (1+2+3+4+5)	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
1. Reprimand	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
2. Suspension	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
3. Withdrawal from cases	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
4. Fine	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP
5. Other	0 [ ] NA [ ] NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify. If a significant difference between the number of disciplinary proceedings and the number of sanctions exists, please indicate the reasons:

### H1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Source: NI Courts and Tribunal Service



## 8.2.Execution of decisions in criminal matters

### 8.2.1Functioning of execution in criminal matters

**189. Which authority is in charge of the enforcement of judgments in criminal matters? (multiple replies possible)**

- Judge  
 Public prosecutor  
 Prison and Probation Services  
 Enforcement agent  
 Other authority (please specify): .....

Comments - Please specify his/her functions and duties (e.g. initiative or monitoring functions). Criminal judgments may include a range of orders including custody, probation, compensation and other monetary penalties. Police, courts and other statutory bodies may be involved in enforcement of monetary penalties in terms of monitoring, collecting etc.

The Judge imposes the monetary penalty, a collection order and allow time to pay when sentencing the defendant. If the defendant fails to pay as directed by the judge, Fine Collection and Enforcement Service (FCS) have responsibility for recovering the unpaid monetary penalties. The Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 gave FCS the powers to ascertain means and circumstances of the defendant, deduct from benefits, attach from earnings, freeze monies in bank accounts and apply to the court to seize vehicles.

FCS may also grant extensions of time to pay or agree instalment plans.

If FCS are unsuccessful in recovering the monetary penalties, the case will be referred back to the Judge. The Judge can consider a custodial sentence or unpaid work as an alternative to the payment.

**190. Are the effective recovery rates of fines decided by a criminal court evaluated by studies?**

- Yes  
 No

Comments

**191. If yes, what is the recovery rate?**

- 80-100%  
 50-79%  
 less than 50%

Comments - Please indicate the source for answering this question: NI Courts and Tribunal Service Finance Branch

## 9.Notaries

### 9.1.Profession of notary

#### 9.1.1Number, status and mandate of notaries

**192. Number and status of notaries in your country.**

	Total	Male	Female
<b>TOTAL (1+2+3+4)</b>	33 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	23 [ ] NA [ ] NAP	10 [ ] NA [ ] NAP

<b>1. Private professionals (without control from public authorities)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2. Holders of public offices appointed by the State</b>	33 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	23 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	10 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>3. Civil servants (paid by the State)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>4. Other</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If "Other", please specify the status, or if "holder of a public office appointed by the State", please indicate which ministry is mainly engaged in the appointment procedure:

**192-1. What are the access conditions to the profession of notary (multiple replies possible):**

- diploma
- professional experience
- specific exam
- appointment procedure by the State
- initial training
- other (please specify): .....

Comments

**192-2. Are notaries appointed to office for an undetermined period (i.e. "for life" = until the official age of retirement)?**

- yes, please indicate the age of retirement: .....
- no, please specify the duration of the appointment: until they cease to practice as a practitioner

Comments - are there exceptions (e.g. dismissal as a disciplinary sanction)? Please specify: Dismissal if their practising certificate is revoked by the Law Society

**9.1.2 Activities/scope of competences**

**194. What kind of activities do notaries perform (multiple options possible):**

<b>Please select one option</b>	
<b>Authentication</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

<b>Certification of signatures</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Legalisation of signatures / Apostille</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Legality control of documents</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Mediation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Taking of oaths</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Non-contentious judicial procedures (e.g. acting as court commissioner in a successions file, performing divorce, division of estate, please specify)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Act as civil servant (for example performing marriage, please specify)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Other judicial functions (for example, payment orders)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

<b>Public auctions</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Other (for example collect taxes, run registers etc.)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify. Please indicate any useful clarifications regarding the content of the notaries' exclusive rights or, on the opposite, other bodies that also have competences for the listed activities.

**194-2. In which areas of law do notaries perform their activities (multiple options possible)?**

- Real estate transaction
- Family law
- Succession law
- Company law
- Legality control of gambling activities
- Protection of vulnerable persons
- Other

Comments

**9.1.3 ICT, organisation of the profession and training**

**194-3. Do notaries use specialised ICT systems in their activity?**

- In their relations with the State (e.g. courts, registries, chambers of commerce, tax authorities)
- In their relations with their clients
- In their relations with other notaries (e.g. videoconferencing, system to exchange documents)

Comments In relations with the State - No save for the FCO Portal;

In relations with their clients - No;

In their relations with other notaries - No, they do not generally interact with other Notaries

**194-4. Which computerised registries can notaries consult?**

- Land registry
- Business registry
- Civil status / Population registry
- Succession / Family law registry
- Any other registry (please specify) .....
- None

Comments

**194-5. Are there registries/ registry infrastructures run by the notaries?**

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify:

**194-6. In which computerised registries can notaries modify data (either directly or by submitting an online request)?**

	Directly modifying	Indirectly modifying by submitting an online request
<b>Land registry</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [ ] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [ X ] NAP
<b>Business registry</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [ ] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [ X ] NAP
<b>Civil status/ Population registry</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [ X ] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [ X ] NAP
<b>Succession / Family law registry</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [ ] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [ X ] NAP
<b>Any other registry (please specify)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [ X ] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [ X ] NAP
<b>None</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [ X ] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [ X ] NAP

Comments

**194-7. What ICT tools are used by notaries in their relations with clients?**

Videoconferencing (e.g. digital advice)

Digital act

Digital identification

Digital archiving

Other, please specify .....

None

Comments Videoconferencing is used for remote execution

**194-8. Who is responsible to run the digital archives?**

Notariat / Professional body

Other public authority

Another entity (please specify) .....

Comments No entity is responsible for this

**195. Is there an authority entrusted with supervising and monitoring the notaries' work?**

Yes

No

Comments

**196. If yes, which authority is responsible for supervising and monitoring notaries (multiple options possible)?**

professional body

court

Ministry of Justice

public prosecutor

other (please specify): .....

Comments Law Society of Northern Ireland as practising solicitors and the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland who has approved their code of conduct are responsible.

Ministry of Justice - No, save Money Laundering ( nothing implemented )

Public Prosecutor - No, save in case of criminal prosecution – none known

**196-1. Is there a system of general continuous training for all notaries?**

Yes

No

Comments CPD - continuous professional development

**196-2. Do notaries have training on:**

	Yes	No
European law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Law of another Member State (cross-border training programmes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments - If yes, please indicate the types (e.g. traditional courses, e-learning, webinar) and the major topics of the training activities:

European Law - not required but most do have training at undergraduate level

**I1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part**

Sources: College of Notaries Northern Ireland

**10.Court interpreters**

**10.1.Details on profession of court interpreter**

## 10.1.1 Status of court interpreters

### 197. Is the title of court interpreters protected?

Yes

No

Comments

### 198. Is the function of court interpreters regulated by legal norms?

Yes

No

Comments

### 199. Number of registered court interpreters:

[            ]

NA

NAP

Comments

### 200. Are there binding provisions regarding the quality of court interpretation within judicial proceedings?

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify (e.g. having passed a specific exam): Regulated under the terms of a contract and codes of conduct and ethics with the appointed service provider

### 201. Are the courts responsible for selecting court interpreters?

Yes, for recruitment and/or appointment for a specific term of office

Yes, for recruitment and/or appointment on an ad hoc basis, according to the specific needs of given proceedings

No, please specify which authority selects court interpreters: The contracted service provider

Comments

### J1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: NICTS / DoJ

## 11. Judicial experts

### 11.1. Profession of judicial expert

#### 11.1.1 Status of judicial experts

**202. In your system, what types of judicial experts can participate in judicial procedures (multiple replies possible):**

- Experts designated by the parties in support of their arguments but bound by a duty of independence and impartiality to the court
- Experts appointed by the court or other authority independent of the parties
- Other system of judicial expertise, please specify .....

Comments - Please specify who is proposing and appointing experts in an individual case.

**202-1. Are there lists or any other form of official registration for judicial experts?**

- Yes
- No

Comments

**202-1-1. If yes, at which level is the list established (multiple replies possible):**

- national
- administrative district or federal entity
- judicial district
- other

Comments - Please, indicate any other comment regarding these lists or databases of experts, if they do exist (e.g. does the expert take an oath? How are his/her skills evaluated? By whom?):

**202-1-2. Are these lists publicly available?**

- Yes, available on the internet
- Yes
- No

Comments

**202-2. Which authority is competent for the registration of judicial experts?**

- Ministry of justice
- Courts
- Administrative body
- Independent body (association of judicial experts)
- Other

Comments - Please also specify the registration criteria:

**202-3. Is the registration of judicial experts limited in time?**

- Yes, for how long .....
- No

Comments

**202-4. Can an expert who is not on the list or not registered be appointed in a case?**



Yes

No

Comment - If yes, please specify in which cases:

### 203. Is the title of judicial experts protected?

Yes

No

Comments - If appropriate, please explain the meaning of this protection:

#### 203-1. Does the judicial expert have an obligation of training?

	Obligation of training
<b>Initial training</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Continuous training</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Comments

#### 203-2. If yes, does this training concern:

judicial proceedings

the profession of expert

other

Comments

### 204. Is the function of judicial experts regulated by legal norms?

Yes

No

Comments

#### 204-1. On the occasion of a task entrusted to him/her, does the judicial expert have to report any potential conflicts of interest?

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify:

### 205. Number of accredited or registered judicial experts:

	Total	Male	Female
<b>Number of experts</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

**206-1. Number of cases where expert opinion was ordered by a judge or requested by the parties**

	Number of cases
<b>Total (1+2+3+4)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>1.Civil and commercial litigious cases</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>2.Administrative cases</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>3.Criminal cases</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>4.Other cases</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

**205-1. Who defines the amount of the expert remuneration?**

	In civil/administrative cases	In criminal cases
<b>Defined by law/by-law or a special regulation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Defined by the court/judge</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Defined by Ministry of Justice or another ministry (setting a tariff for example)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Salary of public official (in case of forensic or another specialist – who is public employee)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Freely agreed between expert and the parties</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
<b>Other</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If other, please specify:

**206. Are there binding provisions for judicial experts regarding:**

	Yes	No
<b>Deadlines to provide expertise</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Quality of expertise	( )	( X )
Other	( )	( X )

NAP

Comments - If yes, please specify, and provide details in case there are possible sanctions:

**207-1. Does the judge or another body control the progress of the expertise?**

Yes

No

If yes, please specify:

**207-2. Are judicial experts' associations involved in:**

Selection processes

Initial or continuous training

Disciplinary procedures

NAP

Comments

**K1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part**

Sources: NAP

**12.Reforms in judiciary**

**12.1.Foreseen reforms**

**12.1.1Reforms**

**208. Can you provide information on the current debate in your country regarding the functioning of justice? Are there undergoing or foreseen reforms? If possible, please observe the following categories:**

**208-1. (Comprehensive) reform plans**

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: The Gillen Review Implementation Team (in the Department of Justice) is responsible for leading and coordinating the implementation of the 253 individual and 16 Key Recommendations made by Sir John Gillen in his report into the law

and procedures in serious sexual offences in Northern Ireland. In the course of 2020/21 through engagement, encouragement and support of partners and stakeholders we made significant progress against Gillen recommendations moving from 14% implemented to 26% fully completed and a further 50% in train. We are already seeing the positive impact of these important reforms. Two temporary Remote Evidence Centres are now in place alongside a new pilot scheme which is delivering publicly funded independent legal advice to adult complainants of serious sexual offences. Other positive developments have been made to reduce delay, improve arrangements for Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) and to develop and deliver trauma informed training for the professionals involved in the conduct of serious sexual offences through the justice system. This Review is implementing transformational change across the criminal justice system with collaboration with other government department such as Education and Health through raising awareness, educating and challenging some societal attitudes, as well as in developing effective wrap-around services for child victims.

We are currently in consultation with regards to drafting a new three year Victim and Witness Strategy for Northern Ireland and introducing a Victims of Crime Commissioner for Northern Ireland. The proposed draft strategy sets out an ambitious programme of work. It is intended to improve our understanding of what victims and witnesses need, help us to meet those needs, and ensure that they get the focus, support and services that they are entitled to. It has been developed to take account of emerging issues, new operating environments and other developments, reviews and recommendations, so that victim and witness needs and interests are effectively understood. We are progressing with the development of a digital platform 'My Justice Journey', with the aim of enhancing and improving the information provided to Victims & Witnesses. My Justice Journey is intended as a two way portal for Victims & Witnesses, which would allow them the autonomy to proactively look at the status of their cases but also to upload their changing needs making them central to the criminal justice system.

## 208-2. Budget

- Yes (planned)
- Yes (adopted)
- Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)
- No
- NA

Comments - If yes, please specify:

## 208-3. Courts and public prosecution services (e.g. powers and organisation, structural changes - e.g. reduction of the number of courts (geographic locations), competences of the courts, management and working methods, information technologies, backlogs and efficiency, court fees, renovations and construction of new buildings)

- Yes (planned)
- Yes (adopted)
- Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)
- No
- NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, alternative working arrangements implemented including staff working from home where possible, plus mixed office / remote working as appropriate. The pandemic has also accelerated the progression of planned digital justice initiatives.

There will be a programme of change over one to three years to the financial jurisdiction of the County Court and the small claims jurisdiction depending on the outcome of a public consultation on increasing the jurisdiction of county court. There is evidence to suggest that there is a volume of cases in the High Court which are disposed for sums below the current jurisdictional limit of £30,000 and that few disposed county courts cases are valued between £15,000 and £30,000. A number of different options are being considered and aim to make the system for making civil claims more efficient, with cases heard in the right court setting, consistent with their complexity and relative value.

Increasing the financial jurisdictions of the small claims court and county court would help ensure that cases could be better directed to

the most appropriate venue allowing for more efficient allocation of judicial and administrative resources, and support speedier justice for citizens. It would reduce the level of High Court resources being used, and provide additional capacity in that tier to hear only the most complex and legally significant cases. For citizens, personal litigants would benefit from simpler, lower cost and more convenient procedures in the county courts and small claims court if jurisdiction was increased. Problem Solving Justice Initiatives

A range of Problem Solving Justice pilots have been established;

- 1.Support Hubs – To help vulnerable individuals or families improve their situation through effective interagency working.
- 2.Enhanced Combination Order (ECO) - An alternative to short prison sentences of 12 months or less. Offenders complete unpaid work, participate in victim focused work and undergo assessment.
- 3.Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme - Providing the judiciary with the option to refer convicted perpetrators to participate in a behaviour change programme.
- 4.Substance Misuse Court - Magistrates' Court Programme for criminal cases designed to test the impact of therapeutic interventions in the lives of repeat offenders who present with significant drug and/or alcohol dependency.
- 5.Family Drug & Alcohol Court - To help families where a child is the subject of care proceedings because of parental substance misuse.

In addition, work is ongoing to introduce a Mental Health Court pilot, as follows:

- 6.Mental Health Court - To improve public safety by reducing recidivism by people who have mental health problems, & reduce the number of individuals going to prison who present with mental health needs. Court Transformation Programme NICTS Transformation Programme

1.The NICTS Transformation Programme provides a framework to enable the delivery of change programmes and projects intended to modernise courts and tribunal services.

2.The overarching objectives are to:

- Improve access to justice through the further adoption of digital and other online service delivery channels;
- Deliver a reconfigured and modernised physical court estate to support new ways of working;
- Redesign and optimise service delivery mode and processes to support wider initiatives to reduce end to end time frames for the completion of cases;
- Achieve a sustainable financial operating environment for court and tribunal services; and
- Support NICTS staff to work in a changing environment.

3.Four key strands being progressed under the Programme are:

- Digital Transformation

Key projects include:

oLine of Business Review

A comprehensive analysis of NICTS Line of Business applications will commence in autumn 2019 and will produce a report containing recommendations that will then be used to inform the strategic direction. oCourtroom Technology

The aim of this project is to upgrade the audio and video technology in all courtrooms and at the same time introduce new functionality such as Wi-Fi connectivity for evidence display. This project has commenced and will be completed over the next 2 years. When complete, courtrooms will be able to display digitally evidence, will include courtroom Wi-Fi and will be technology agnostic.

oRemote/Virtual Hearings

This project is carrying out research of technology and solutions to develop a solution to enable professional users to give evidence from their workplace or home. •Estates Transformation

Key projects include:

oDevelopment of an Estates Strategy

oNorth West Project oReform of Property Asset Management

- Service Redesign Transformation

oEnabled by technology, services provided by NICTS could be redesigned to create modern, effective and customer friendly services. A number of pilot projects have been identified including probate and receipting commencing in 2019. •Business Change Transformation

oIn delivering the scale of change proposed, NICTS will need to support staff, judiciary and other key stakeholders.

## 208-4. Access to justice and legal aid

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: Reforms to ensure that legal aid services continue to offer value for money are continuing. These are focused on reforming remuneration (such as making greater use of standardised fees) and ensuring appropriate quality standards are in place. A wider examination of the future strategy for Access to Justice for Northern Ireland is in the early planning stages.

## 208-5. High Judicial Council

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify:

## 208-6. Legal professionals (judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, notaries, enforcement agents, etc.): organisation, education and training, etc.

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: Regulation •The planned implementation of the Legal Complaints and Regulation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 which sees the entire complaints process overseen by an independent oversight commissioner, conduct complaints retained by the PCC but service complaints handled by a new Bar Complaints Committee

•Reform of Code of Conduct and existing disciplinary rules & procedures to reflect best practice •Increased supervision of anti-money laundering and engagement with UK-wide supervisory bodies such as the Office for Professional Body AML Supervision now in operation

•Statutory Registration Scheme planned to provide a new system to assess quality and value for money of legal aid services Professional Standards

•Specific training aimed at vulnerable witnesses and issues arising out of sexual offence cases

•Specific training relevant to each Bar association and area of law to reflect latest developments

•Ongoing reform of education and training provision at the Institute of Professional Legal Studies to align with requirements of the Bar Areas of Law

•Mediation & Arbitration service being extended and supported in response to emerging need for such services

•Engagement in a series of reforms in civil and family justice arising out of various reviews of the justice system

•Court modernisation programme aimed at enhancing digital technology across the justice system

•Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 which introduces a new domestic abuse offence for NI due to be operational from February 2022.

Practice Management •Ongoing adoption of technology enabled improvements to practice management

The Gillen Review into Serious Sexual Offences in Northern Ireland contains a number of recommendations relating to the training of the judiciary, law enforcement authorities and other justice professionals involved in the conduct of serious sexual offences through the justice system. Multi-agency work is well advanced to develop a training strategy that will support increased awareness, knowledge and sensitivity in the handling of serious sexual offence cases and ensure that all professionals involved in serious sexual offence cases are able to receive trauma-informed training to enhance how they interact with victims in these cases.

## 208-7. Gender balance

- Yes (planned)
- Yes (adopted)
- Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)
- No
- NA

Comments - If yes, please specify:

## **208-8. Reforms regarding civil, criminal and administrative laws, international conventions and cooperation activities**

- Yes (planned)
- Yes (adopted)
- Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)
- No
- NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: Legislation currently being developed to reform how more serious crimes (indictable crimes) are dealt with by the court system. The Committal Reform Bill will enable such cases to be dealt with more quickly by the Crown Court. The legislation is currently under review in the Northern Ireland Assembly and is likely to come into law during 2022.

## **208-9. Enforcement of court decisions and in particular regarding decisions against public authorities**

- Yes (planned)
- Yes (adopted)
- Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)
- No
- NA

Comments - If yes, please specify:

## **208-10. Mediation and other Alternative Dispute Resolution**

- Yes (planned)
- Yes (adopted)
- Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)
- No
- NA

Comments - If yes, please specify:

## **208-11. Fight against crime**

- Yes (planned)
- Yes (adopted)
- Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)
- No
- NA

Comments - If yes, please specify:

## 208-12. Prison system

- Yes (planned)  
 Yes (adopted)  
 Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)  
 No  
 NA

Comments - If yes, please specify:

## 208-13. Child friendly justice

- Yes (planned)  
 Yes (adopted)  
 Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)  
 No  
 NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: Work is currently being undertaken in support of improving health within the criminal justice system, including in the area of Trauma Informed Practice and Adverse Childhood Experiences. There are various strands of work being undertaken across the system, including an informal group of justice stakeholders focused on embedding trauma informed practice. This, coupled with efforts to improve awareness of rights through promotion of the Victims Charter with a new 3 year Victim and Witness Strategy and the establishment of a Victims of Crime Commissioner, should provide our citizens, including our children, with the knowledge of a solid framework of protection and means for redress.

The Gillen Review into Serious Sexual Offences in Northern Ireland set out a wide range of recommendations which, taken together, will improve the experiences of victims who are children. This includes measures to expedite their cases and bespoke wrap-around health and justice services for children. The Department of Justice has established a multi-agency, cross-departmental Steering Group that is providing strategic direction and overseeing the coordinated implementation of Gillen Review recommendations relating to children. One priority for this Group is the development of a permanent protocol to expedite serious sexual offence cases involving children under 13. This extends and builds on an existing judge-led voluntary protocol in Belfast which has made a positive difference to the children and their families – we are now working to extend this across Northern Ireland.

Other important workstreams overseen by the Children's Steering Group include:

the development of a further legal advice pilot specifically tailored for children;

the provision of child-friendly Remote Evidence facilities;

the development of a pilot to test pre-recorded cross-examination;

working with PSNI to improve Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) practice and providing information to inform the review of ABE suites and technology; and

the consideration of a Barnahus-type model for Northern Ireland which, if implemented, would bring all justice and therapeutic child services together under a single roof.

Consistent and uniform Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) is crucial to giving children and young people the information and tools they need to understand healthy relationships, make informed decisions and protect themselves. A commitment has been given by the Department of Education to lead a cross-sectoral work to look at improving the provision of RSE, including a review of the Minimum Content Order.

The Justice Minister has also recently written to the new Education Minister seeking a meeting to discuss her views on RSE and to ensure progress is maintained.

## 208-14. Domestic violence

- Yes (planned)  
 Yes (adopted)



Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify:

## **208-15. New information and communication technologies**

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify:

## **208-16. Other**

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: