

Evaluation of the judicial systems 2024 (data 2022)



UK-Northern Ireland

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Reference data 2022 (01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022)

Start/end date of the data collection campaign : 15/03/2023 - 01/10/2023

Objective :

The CEPEJ decided, at its 39th plenary meeting, to launch the ninth evaluation cycle 2024, focused on 2022 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 46 member states of the Council of Europe as well as three observer states (Israel, Morocco and Kazakhstan).

The present questionnaire was developed 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, in service of the European citizens.

For better understanding of the questions it is necessary to consult the Explanatory note that gives definitions and explanations on the CEPEJ evaluation questionnaire and the methodology needed for replying, You can download the Explanatory note as a whole document on the CEPEJ website. In addition to the Explanatory note, there is also the User manual that is a technical document to help you navigate through this application for data collection.

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.

Instruction :

Explanatory note: <https://rm.coe.int/explanatory-note-2024-cycle-cepej-2023-2-en/1680aae30a>

Word version of the questionnaire - <https://rm.coe.int/evaluation-scheme-2024-cycle-cepej-2022-9rev1-en-30-march-2023/1680aae309>

CEPEJ COLLECT - User manual – you can download under Documentation tab

1.General and financial information

1.1.Demographic and economic data

1.1.1Inhabitants and economic general information



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

[1 910 500]

Comments

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

[30 620]

Comments The figure above relates to the regional GDP estimate published by ONS for Northern Ireland. Inflation and exchange rate movements have contributed to the increase compared to the previous cycle.

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

[33 830]

[] NA

Comments The figure above relates to median full-time annual earnings in NI in 2022

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

[0.8868]

Allow decimals : 5

[] NAP

Comments Bank of England exchange rate data (€1 = £0.8868 at 30 Dec 2022)

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

Sources: 1) 2022 Mid-year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland, NISRA, 31 August 2023
3) Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2021, ONS, 25 April 2023
4) Employee earnings in NI 2022, NISRA, 26 October 2022

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, please answer NA to question 7.

	Approved budget (in €)	Implemented budget (in €)
TOTAL - Annual public budget allocated to the functioning of all courts (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)	111 461 380 [] NA [] NAP	109 348 503 [] NA [] NAP
1. Annual public budget allocated to (gross) salaries	40 950 544 [] NA [] NAP	40 185 512 [] NA [] NAP
2. Annual public budget allocated to computerisation (2.1 + 2.2)	7 785 088 [] NA [] NAP	7 486 585 [] NA [] NAP

2.1 Investments in computerisation	3 892 703 [] NA [] NAP	3 507 138 [] NA [] NAP
2.2 Maintenance of the IT equipment of courts	3 892 385 [] NA [] NAP	3 979 447 [] NA [] NAP
3. Annual public budget allocated to justice expenses (expertise, interpretation, etc.)	38 872 832 [] NA [] NAP	38 380 867 [] NA [] NAP
4. Annual public budget allocated to court buildings (maintenance, operating costs)	23 830 676 [] NA [] NAP	23 276 592 [] NA [] NAP
5. Annual public budget allocated to investments in new (court) buildings	0 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP
6. Annual public budget allocated to training	22 240 [] NA [] NAP	18 947 [] NA [] NAP
7. Other (please specify)	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] 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 €74,343,139 rather than €111,461,380 as shown in the table as approved income which is a negative budget (-€37,118,241), should be deducted from the total. Similarly, the implemented budget should be actually be €72,984,074 instead of €109,348,503 as the implemented income (-€36,364,429) 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. 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. Figures have been confirmed by NICTS. The increased budget allocated to court buildings (maintenance, operating costs) relates to:

- an increase in capital spend, a large portion of this relates to the new accounting treatment of leases (IFRS16) and capital spend in the 2020 data being lower due to Covid 19 impacting what capital works could be done;
- a large increase in contract security and utilities due to contract and inflationary increases; and
- the exchange rate difference also caused part of the increase from 2020 to 2022. Data relates to the financial year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

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	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
Total annual public budget allocated to all courts and legal aid together	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
Total annual public budget allocated to all courts, public prosecution services and legal aid together	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] 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

Comments - 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. 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 graduated tiered structure with application fees to the lower court tier (Magistrates' Court) being less than those in 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:

- [151]
- [] NA
- [] NAP

Comments Small Claims Court - €151, Civil Bill - €251

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

- [28 221 744]
- [] NA
- [] NAP

Comments Income in the previous return was for 2020-21 financial year and court business was significantly affected by the onset of the

Covid-19 pandemic and income levels were substantially lower than previous years as a result. In the current return, income for 2022-23 financial year has returned to a more normal level. The increase compared to the previous cycle may also be attributed to a higher Stg/Euro exchange rate in the current return.

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

	TOTAL	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
TOTAL - Annual approved public budget allocated to legal aid (12.1 + 12.2)	113 387 000 [] NA [] NAP	55 157 000 [] NA [] NAP	58 230 000 [] NA [] NAP
12.1 for cases brought to court (court fees and/or legal representation)	113 387 000 [] NA [] NAP	55 157 000 [] NA [] NAP	58 230 000 [] NA [] NAP
12.2 for cases not brought to court (legal advice, ADR and other legal services)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Comments Legal Aid spend (and the associated budget) in 20-21 was reduced compared to previous years due to the Covid Pandemic and the reduction in legally aided activity.

Legal Aid spend (and the associated budget) in 22-23 was increased due to an increase in demand for legal aid, which can be attributed to a range of factors including Covid Recovery and a catch up in legally aided activity along with a general increase in demand due to the current economic climate and an increase in the number of large, multi defendant cases.

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

	TOTAL	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
TOTAL - Annual implemented public budget allocated to legal aid (12-1.1 + 12-1.2)	113 387 000 [] NA [] NAP	55 157 000 [] NA [] NAP	58 230 000 [] NA [] NAP
12-1.1 for cases brought to court (court fees and/or legal representation)	113 387 000 [] NA [] NAP	55 157 000 [] NA [] NAP	58 230 000 [] NA [] NAP
12-1.2 for cases not brought to court (legal advice, ADR and other legal services)	[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: Legal Aid spend (and the associated budget) in 20-21 was reduced compared to previous years due to the Covid Pandemic and the reduction in legally aided activity.

Legal Aid spend (and the associated budget) in 22-23 was increased due to an increase in demand for legal aid, which can be attributed to a range of factors including Covid Recovery and a catch up in legally aided activity along with a general increase in demand due to the current economic climate and an increase in the number of large, multi defendant cases.

The approved budget agrees to the implemented budget because of a pre-approved overspend being factored into the closing 2022-23 budget.

It is impossible to predict the level of bills with accuracy. However, along with the accounting treatment adopted, LSANI has the ability to manage the processing and payment of bills to land on budget.

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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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP (Legal aid does not include coverage of court fees)
Exemption from court fees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP (Legal aid does not include exemption from court fees)

Comments The budget includes both the coverage of court fees and exemption of court fees. However, there is no way of identifying or estimating the splits on these

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)	47 120 000 [] NA [] NAP	47 050 000 [] NA [] NAP
13.1. Annual public budget allocated to training of public prosecution services	46 800 [] NA [] NAP	46 800 [] NA [] 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: The difference between the approved budget and implemented budget reflects a small saving in overhead spend 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. The annual budget allocated to training of public prosecution services increased compared to the previous cycle when the figures were impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic.

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

Sources: Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland

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)

	Approved budget (in €)	Implemented budget (in €)
Total annual public budget allocated to the whole justice system in €	1 383 072 000 [] NA [] NAP	1 383 002 000 [] NA [] NAP

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: Euro/Sterling exchange rate used 0.8868 as at 30 Dec 2022.

Budget based on final 2022-23 Non Ringfenced Resource DEL budget. Figures exclude non cash resource budgets and capital budgets.

Some Police Services below - budget includes all elements for operating the Police Service of NI.

Functioning of the Ministry of Justice –covers the remaining functions of the Department of Justice in NI not separately indicated in 15-3.

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

	Included
Courts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Legal aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Public prosecution services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

015-3. Other budgetary elements

	Included
Prison system	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Probation services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
High Judicial Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
High Prosecutorial Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Constitutional court	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Judicial management body	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Service for legal representation of the State	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Enforcement services	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Notariat	() Yes (X) No [] NAP
Forensic services	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Judicial protection of juveniles	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Functioning of the Ministry of Justice	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Refugees and asylum seekers services	() Yes (X) No [] NAP
Immigration Service	() Yes (X) No [] NAP
Some police services (e.g. : transfer, investigation, prisoners' security)	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Other	() Yes (X) No [] NAP

If "Other", please specify:

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

Sources: Department of Justice Budgeting System

2. Access to justice and all courts

2.1. Legal Aid

2.1.1 Scope of legal aid

016. Does legal aid apply to:

	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
Representation in court	(X) Yes () No [] NA [] NAP	(X) Yes () No [] NA [] NAP

Legal advice, ADR and other legal services	<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.

- 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.

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:

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
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TOTAL	63 976 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
In criminal cases	24 295 [] NA [] NAP	24 295 [] NA [] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
In other than criminal cases	39 681 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Comments - Please specify when appropriate: Information provided relates to the financial year 2022/23, the basis at which information is held. All criminal cases are before the court when legal aid is granted. It is not possible to estimate the number of civil cases which go to court from our record as there is a time delay from the grant of legal aid to the report on the outcome of the assistance provided.

020-0. Please indicate the number of recipients of legal aid:

	Total	Cases brought to court	Cases not brought to court
TOTAL	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
In criminal cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
In other than criminal cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Comments - Please specify when appropriate: This information is not currently available.

020-0-1. Are there statistical data disaggregated by gender in respect of recipients of legal aid?

- () Yes
- (X) No

Comments

020-0-2. If yes, please provide details on distribution by gender of recipients of legal aid:

	Total	Males	Females
Number of recipients of legal aid	[] NA [] NAP	[] NA [] NAP	[] NA [] NAP

Comments

020-0-3. Is it possible to divide the number of recipients of legal aid per different categories of cases?

- () Yes
- (X) No

Comment: If yes, please specify for which categories of cases:

020-0-4. Are there situations where legal aid is automatically granted depending on categories of

cases?

Yes

No

Comment: If yes, please specify: There are automatic grants for advice and assistance in Police and Criminal Evidence Act matters (PACE). In some matters the means test is disapplied by statute, but the merits test remains.

020-0-5. How many of the recipients of legal aid are alleged victims of domestic violence?

	Total	Males	Females
Number of recipients of legal aid who are alleged victims of domestic violence	<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

Comments

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 decision on the legal aid request:

	Time in days
Maximum duration prescribed in law/regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Actual average duration	<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 the solicitor in advance of advice being given.

Applications for non-emergency applications for all other non-criminal representation were processed within the Agency’s target of 90% of properly completed applications within 12 weeks of date of receipt. Depending on the level of service the percentage achieved within 12 weeks ranged from 94.8% to 99.9%. These outturns are detailed within the Legal Services Agency Annual Report and Accounts –2022-23.

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
Accused individuals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Victims	<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
Accused individuals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Victims	<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: 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.

For other than criminal cases - the income threshold (€9,937) is higher in personal injury cases (€10,995) and the assets value (€6,750) is also higher in personal injury cases (€8,560)

023. If yes, please specify in the table:

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

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
in other than criminal cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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 2022/23 and Business Plan 2022/23

2.2.Court users and victims

2.2.1Rights 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.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> www.legislation.gov.uk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Case-law of the higher court/s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> www.legislation.gov.uk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information about the judicial system (organisation of courts, court proceedings, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Other documents (e.g. forms, downloadable forms, online registration forms)	(X) www.legislation.gov.uk; http://www.courtsni.gov.uk	()
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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 www.legislation.gov.uk a)Contains case law

b)Provides for online 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
General for citizens	<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
Specific for victims of offences	<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
Specific for minors (child-friendly systems)	<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

Comments - Please provide more information on these systems and 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://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
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Victims of sexual violence/rape	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
Victims of terrorism	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
Minors (witnesses or victims)	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
Victims of domestic violence	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
Ethnic minorities	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
Persons with disabilities	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
Juvenile offenders	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
Other (e.g. victims of human trafficking, forced marriage, sexual mutilation)	(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?

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

Special room in court designated for child-friendly hearings

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

Special ways to communicate and explain meaning of court decisions

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

Other, please specify NSPCC Child Witness service is available in relation to criminal matters for witnesses Registered intermediaries would be available for minors witnesses and defendants.

NAP

Comment 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. The Young Witness Service has now been established, following a pilot,

giving evidence via a TV live link to enable children to give evidence remotely.

031-1. What are the main criteria for a person under 18 years of age to act in court proceedings or to be a witness?

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

Comments - Please specify if you selected "Other". NICTS confirmed that capacity is not available for either civil or criminal.

031-2. If a person under 18 years of age cannot act in court proceedings in his/her own name, who can represent him/her in judicial proceedings?

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

Comment It could be guardian ad litem in relation to civil proceedings and Public Prosecution Service in relation to Criminal matters.

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 NA

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)

[]

NA

NAP

Criminal liability resulting in sentence of privation of liberty

[]

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? NA

-
-

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

Yes, but only if the offender is unknown

Yes, but only if compensation could not be obtained from the offender

Yes, in both situations

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: A court may order compensation as part of the decision in cases involving criminal injuries, criminal damage or were loss has been sustained e.g theft, fraud etc. The person convicted of the offence may be ordered to pay compensation to the victim.

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

Yes

No

Comments

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: A court may order compensation as part of the decision in cases involving criminal injuries, criminal damage or were loss has been sustained e.g theft, fraud etc. The person convicted of the offence may be ordered to pay compensation to the victim.

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

Yes

No

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: A court may order compensation as part of the decision in cases involving criminal injuries, criminal damage or were loss has been sustained e.g theft, fraud etc. The person convicted of the offence may be ordered to pay compensation to the victim.

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

Yes

No

Comments

034. Is there a regular monitoring (official studies, reports etc.) allowing the evaluation of 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

(X) 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".

(X) 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 of compensation in the following circumstances:

	Number of requests for compensation	Number of compensations granted	Total amount of compensations granted (in €)
Total	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
Excessive length of proceedings	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Non-execution of court decisions	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Wrongful arrest/detention	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
Wrongful conviction	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
Other	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP

Comments - Where appropriate, please give details on 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 separate civil remedy taken by the individual

037-1. Please specify which authorities are responsible for dealing with the requests and whether a

legal time limit exists to deal with these requests:

	Responsible authorities	Legal time limit
Court concerned	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other court	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ministry of Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Judicial Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other external bodies (e.g. Ombudsman)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments

037-2. Are there statistical data disaggregated by gender concerning the number of:

	Existence of statistical data disaggregated by gender
Persons who initiate a case in other than criminal matters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes - If yes, please specify for which categories of cases: [Comment] <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Victims recognised as such by the court	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - If yes, please specify for which types of offences: [Comment] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Perpetrators of criminal offences	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - If yes, please specify for which types of offences: [Comment] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

037-3. Are there statistical data on the relation between the perpetrator of the criminal offence and the victim recognised by the court?

Yes

No

If yes, please specify:

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input checked="" 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"/> 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input checked="" 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

NA

Comment - Please, indicate the references and links to the satisfaction surveys you mentioned above: Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey – ‘Perceptions of the Public Prosecution Service’.

Northern Ireland Civil Service Staff Survey.

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

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

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

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
Fight against terrorism, organised crime and corruption	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP

Internet related disputes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Administrative courts	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Insurance and / or social welfare courts	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Military courts	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Juvenile courts	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Other specialised courts	<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)
First instance courts geographic locations (this includes 1st instance courts of general jurisdiction and first instance specialised courts)	17 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
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)	18 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments Only 1 location has both first and second instance type courts. There are no 3rd instance courts in the Northern Ireland jurisdiction.

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

Sources: Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service

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

Total number of professional judges (1 + 2 + 3)	71 [] NA [] NAP	45 [] NA [] NAP	26 [] NA [] NAP
1. Number of first instance professional judges	56 [] NA [] NAP	32 [] NA [] NAP	24 [] NA [] NAP
2. Number of second instance (court of appeal) professional judges	3 [] NA [] NAP	3 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP
3. Number of Supreme Court professional judges	12 [] NA [] NAP	10 [] 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 professional judges with proportionally reduced remuneration?

Yes

No

Comments

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

Child-care

Elderly care or other dependant persons' care

Training

For the purposes of early retirement

No specific reason required

Other reason, please specify: Each application for part time working is considered on its own merit and in conjunction with what pattern the particular tier can facilitate

Comments

046-1-3. If yes, what is the number of professional judges working part-time with reduced remuneration?

	Total	Males	Females
Total (1 + 2 + 3)	2 [] NA [] NAP	1 [] NA [] NAP	1 [] NA [] NAP
1. At first instance level	2 [] NA [] NAP	1 [] NA [] NAP	1 [] NA [] NAP
2. At second instance (court of appeal) level	0 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP

3. At Supreme Court level	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
---------------------------	--	--	--

Comments

046-1-4. Are there other possibilities (apart from part-time) for regular adjustment of working time or conditions with or without reduced remuneration?

	Adjustment of working time or conditions with or without reduced remuneration
Temporary reduction of the workload	(X) Yes () No
Temporary reduction of the working time / special leave	(X) Yes () No
Other measures	() Yes (X) No

Comment: If such possibilities for regular adjustment exist, please specify if they imply or not a reduction of the remuneration? Each application for part-time working is considered on its own merit and in conjunction with what pattern the particular judicial tier can facilitate

046-1-5. If yes, please specify in which situation(s) these possibilities can be used?

- Child-care
- Elderly care or other dependant persons' care
- Training
- For the purposes of early retirement
- As part of induction process for new judges
- No specific reason required
- Other reason, please specify:
- NAP

Comments

=

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

	Total	Civil and/or commercial	Criminal	Administrative	Other
Total number of judges	<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
First instance	<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Second instance	<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Supreme Court	<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--

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

=

047. Number of court presidents .

	Total	Males	Females
Total number of court presidents (1 + 2 + 3)	3 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	2 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	1 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. Number of first instance court presidents	3 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	2 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	1 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. Number of second instance (court of appeal) court presidents	<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
3. Number of Supreme Court presidents	<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 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):

	Figure
Gross figure	575 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
In full-time equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If necessary, please provide comments to explain the answer provided: These are fee paid judges who sit occasionally in courts and tribunals. These fee paid judicial offices (along with salaried roles) are listed in Schedule 1 of the Justice NI Act 2002. They are all appointed by the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission.

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 These are fee paid judges who sit occasionally in courts and tribunals. These fee paid judicial offices (along with salaried roles) are listed in Schedule 1 of the Justice NI Act 2002. They are all appointed by the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission - www.nijac.gov.uk

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)	()	()	()
Criminal cases (misdemeanour and/or minor)	()	()	()
Family law cases	()	()	()
Labour law cases	()	()	()
Social law cases	()	()	()
Commercial law cases	()	()	()
Insolvency cases	()	()	()
Other civil cases	()	()	()

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:

[]

[X] 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
Total non-judge staff working in courts (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5)	698 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
1. Rechtspfleger (or similar bodies) (see Explanatory Note)	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
2. Non-judge (judicial) staff whose task is to assist the judges such as registrars (case preparation, assistance during the hearing, helping to draft the decisions)	460 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
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)	238 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
4. Technical staff	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
5. Other non-judge staff	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Comments - If "Other non-judge staff", please specify:

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
Total non-judge staff working in courts (1+2+3)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

1. Total non-judge staff working in courts at first instance level	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. Total non-judge staff working in courts at second instance (court of appeal) level	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. Total non-judge staff working in courts at Supreme Court level	<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

=

053. If there are Rechtspfleger (or similar bodies), 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 exact 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, catering, transcription services, some IT services outside of the main NI government shared service contract, accountancy services. Some other miscellaneous support services.

Comments - If "Other types of services", please specify:

NA

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

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.)

	Total	Males	Females
Total number of prosecutors (1 + 2 + 3)	177 [] NA [] NAP	62 [] NA [] NAP	115 [] NA [] NAP
1. Number of prosecutors at first instance level	177 [] NA [] NAP	62 [] NA [] NAP	115 [] 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 Kings Counsel are engaged to do this).

=

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

(X) Yes

() No

Comments

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

[] Child-care

[] Elderly care or other dependant persons' care

[] Training

[] For the purposes of early retirement

[X] No specific reason required

[] Other reason, please specify:

055-1-3. If yes, what is the number of prosecutors working part-time with reduced remuneration?

	Total	Males	Females
Total (1 + 2 + 3)	50 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	8 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	42 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. At first instance level	50 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	8 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	42 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. At second instance (court of appeal) level	<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
3. At Supreme Court level	<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. Are there other possibilities (apart of part-time work) for regular adjustment of working time or conditions with or without reduced remuneration?

	Adjustment of working time or conditions with or without reduced remuneration
Temporary reduction of the workload	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Temporary reduction of the working time / special leave	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other measures	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Comment: If such possibilities for regular adjustment exist, please specify if they imply or not a reduction of the remuneration? Term Time Working enables successful applicants to take unpaid leave during school holidays

055-1-5 . If yes, please specify in which situation(s) these possibilities can be used?

- Child-care
- Elderly care or other dependant persons' care
- Training
- For the purposes of early retirement
- As part of induction process for new prosecutors
- No specific reason required
- Other reason, please specify:
- NAP

Comments

056. Number of heads of prosecution offices.

	Total	Males	Females
Total number of heads of prosecution offices (1 + 2 + 3)	1 [] NA [] NAP	1 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP
1. Number of heads of prosecution offices at first instance level	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
2. Number of heads of prosecution offices at second instance (court of appeal) level	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
3. Number of heads of prosecution offices at Supreme Court level	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP

Please provide any useful comment for interpreting the data above: The Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland is the recognised head of all 4 regional office sites utilised by the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland. Business functions are split across these sites, but there are no other individuals with that title or role.

057. In your judicial system, 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. If yes, please provide the 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?

	-
Domestic violence	[X] Yes [] Yes, specifically for minor victims [] No [] NA [] NAP

Sexual violence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, specifically for minor victims <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
------------------------	---

Comments - If yes, please specify The Public Prosecution Service have a team of specialist domestic abuse prosecutors.

The PPS have also worked with Women’s Aid Federation NI and other voluntary sector partners to deliver a major programme of training to all prosecutors and other staff who directly support victims.

The specialist domestic abuse prosecutors are highly trained and experienced lawyers who understand how complex these crimes can be and the trauma experienced by victims.

=

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
Number of staff (non-public prosecutors) attached to the public prosecution service	283 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	99 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	184 <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment – please describe which categories of staff you have included in your reply: Administrative and support staff

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
judges	(X)	()
prosecutors	(X)	()
non-judge staff	(X)	()
lawyers	(X)	()
notaries	(X)	()

enforcement agents	(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
judges	(X)	()
prosecutors	()	(X)
non-judge staff	(X)	()
lawyers	(X)	()
notaries	(X)	()
enforcement agents	(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

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

	Yes / No
Court president	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes If “yes”, please specify:[Comment] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Head of prosecution services	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes If “yes”, please specify:[Comment] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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
- 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
The recruitment of judges	()	(X)
The promotion of judges	()	(X)
The recruitment of prosecutors	()	(X)
The promotion of prosecutors	()	(X)
The recruitment of non-judge staff	()	(X)
The promotion of non-judge staff	()	(X)

Comments - Please specify the status of this person/institution and if it has a consultative function or if its opinions/decisions have legal consequences: 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.

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:

061-9. In order to improve gender balance in access to different judicial professions and gender 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.

NAP

061-10. Are there evaluation studies or official reports regarding the main causes of possible gender 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:

NAP

Comments - Please specify also the reference documents.

3.5. Use of information technologies in courts

3.5.1 Governance

ICT STRATEGY

062-01. Do you have an overall Information and Communication Technology (ICT) strategy in the judicial system?

- Yes
- No

Comments Attached are links to the NICTS Digital Strategy and the Judicial Modernisation paper.

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/justice/nicts-digital-strategy-2021-2026.pdf>

<https://www.judiciaryni.uk/sites/judiciary/files/media-files/Judicial%20Modernisation%20Paper%20September%202021.pdf>

062-02. If there is an overall ICT strategy in the judicial system, who was involved in the process of its definition?

- Judges (Judicial council)
- Prosecutors (Prosecutorial or judicial council)
- Ministry of justice
- Lawyers (bar association)
- Notaries (association of notaries)
- Enforcement agents (association of enforcement agents)
- Other (please specify)

NA

NAP

Comments For the Digital Strategy the NICTS Vision 2030 team engaged with key stakeholders including the legal profession and the judiciary. Strategy covers the period 2021 – 2026.

LEGISLATION

062-03. Does a national legislation/regulation of ICT in the judicial system exist?

Yes

No

Comments

062-04. If yes, how is this legislation/regulation of ICT in the judicial system structured?

Relevant norms are included in the general e-government legislation/regulation

Relevant norms are included in specific legislation/regulation only for the judicial system

Relevant texts are included in dedicated technical documents/specifications

Other, please specify

NA

Comment - If more than one of the proposed models exist in your country, please select them all and explain the details

NA

IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ICT SYSTEMS

062-05. Have you already organised audits/evaluations/assessments of the impact of the implementation of the ICT system?

Yes

No

Comments

062-06. If these audits/evaluations/assessments were already organised, please specify their modalities:

	Format	Last conducted audit
ICT Governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In the last 2 years <input type="checkbox"/> Between 2 and 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Security and risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In the last 2 years <input type="checkbox"/> Between 2 and 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Impact on efficiency and quality of the business processes and workflow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In the last 2 years <input type="checkbox"/> Between 2 and 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Impact on human resources (number, workload, wellbeing)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In the last 2 years <input type="checkbox"/> Between 2 and 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Other, please specify in comments	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal <input type="checkbox"/> External <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> In the last 2 years <input type="checkbox"/> Between 2 and 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years ago <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected other area, please provide details. Please also add details on the content of the last organised evaluation. As part of the accreditation of a new IT system an independent IT Health Check is required to be completed. These IT Health Checks are then completed annually as part of the accreditation certificate conditions. A report will be produced for each IT Health Check setting out and categorising any risks identified. A Remedial Action Plan will be completed for these risks. Other audits/evaluations/assessments are completed included reviews by internal and external auditors, the NI Criminal Justice Inspectorate, Gateway Reviews and Internal Peer Reviews.

062-07. If these audits/evaluations/assessments were organised in the last 5 years, how did you apply their recommendations/results?

- Update applications
- Define new ICT projects/modules
- Adjust legislation
- Adjust working processes
- Withdraw/stop use of a module/application
- Reporting purpose only
- Other, please specify
- NA
- NAP

Comments Improvements to security of systems, audit controls and management of systems. Recommendations have also informed requirements for new IT systems currently being procured.

3.5.2 Electronic case processing
ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF CASES

062-08. If it is possible to submit a case to a court electronically, what are the deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments For administrative cases receipt electronically by email is also possible.

062-09. If it is possible to submit a case to a court electronically, please specify the modalities:

Electronic or paper	Possible to be submitted electronically by:	Data integration

Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper submission is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper submission is not possible anymore (electronic submission is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double submission (paper must accompany the electronic submission) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The data are electronically transferred to the Case Management System (CMS) <input type="checkbox"/> The data are manually re-entered in the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper submission is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper submission is not possible anymore (electronic submission is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double submission (paper must accompany the electronic submission) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The data are electronically transferred to the Case Management System (CMS) <input type="checkbox"/> The data are manually re-entered in the CMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper submission is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper submission is not possible anymore (electronic submission is the only way) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double submission (paper must accompany the electronic submission) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Party not represented by a lawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The data are electronically transferred to the Case Management System (CMS) <input type="checkbox"/> The data are manually re-entered in the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments For criminal cases it is possible to be submitted electronically by a public prosecutor.

SENDING ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS TO COURT



062-10. If it is possible to send case-related documents to the courts electronically, what are the deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic delivery is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic delivery is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

062-11. If it is possible to send electronically case related documents to the courts, please specify the modalities:

Electronic or paper	Possible to be submitted electronically by:	Data integration
---------------------	---	------------------

Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper delivery is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper delivery is not possible anymore (electronic delivery is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double delivery (Paper delivery must accompany the electronic one) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by a lawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by a party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by another person/institution <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> The data are electronically transferred to the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> The data are manually re-entered in the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper delivery is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper delivery is not possible anymore (electronic delivery is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double delivery (Paper delivery must accompany the electronic one) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by a party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by another person/institution <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> The data are electronically transferred to the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> The data are manually re-entered in the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper delivery is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper delivery is not possible anymore (electronic delivery is the only way) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double delivery (Paper delivery must accompany the electronic one) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by a party not represented by a lawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by another person/institution <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The data are electronically transferred to the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> The data are manually re-entered in the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Documents sent by another person/institution”, please specify details. Documents are received and sent to other criminal justice organisations via Causeway data sharing mechanism

ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATIONS

062-12. If it is possible for courts to send electronic notifications, what are the deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

062-13. If it is possible for courts to send electronic notifications, please specify the modalities:

Electronic or paper	Type of notification	Data integration

<p>Civil</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Paper notification is still possible</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Paper notification is not possible anymore (electronic notification is the only way)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Double notification (paper notification must accompany the electronic one)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent by the court to the lawyer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent by the court to the party not represented by a lawyer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Notifications with attached official documents sent by the courts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent to other persons/institutions</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The electronic notification is generated from the CMS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The electronic notification is manually generated</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p>
<p>Administrative</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Paper notification is still possible</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Paper notification is not possible anymore (electronic notification is the only way)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Double notification (paper notification must accompany the electronic one)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent by the court to the lawyer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent by the court to the party not represented by a lawyer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Notifications with attached official documents sent by the courts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent to other persons/institutions</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The electronic notification is generated from the CMS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The electronic notification is manually generated</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p>

Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper notification is still possible	<input type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent by the court to the lawyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The electronic notification is generated from the CMS
	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper notification is not possible anymore (electronic notification is the only way)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent by the court to the party not represented by a lawyer	<input type="checkbox"/> The electronic notification is manually generated
	<input type="checkbox"/> Double notification (paper notification must accompany the electronic one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notifications with attached official documents sent by the courts	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible
	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent to other persons/institutions	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible
	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible	<input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Notifications sent to other persons/institutions”, please specify details. Notifications sent to other criminal justice organisations via Causeway data sharing mechanism

CONSULTATION OF A CASE ONLINE

062-14. If it is possible for external users to consult a case online, what are the deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 %	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 %
	<input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 %	<input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 %
	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 %	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 %
	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 %	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 25-50 %
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 %	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 %
	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 %	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 %
	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP - online consultation is not possible	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP - online consultation is not possible
	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

062-15. If it is possible for external users to consult a case online, please specify the modalities:

	Content	Access	Consultation format
Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notifications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Events/calendar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Court decision <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Party not represented by a lawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic access at the court premises <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notifications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Events/calendar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Court decision <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Party not represented by a lawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic access at the court premises <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notifications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Events/calendar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Court decision <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Party not represented by a lawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic access at the court premises <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Other”, please specify details. For other in access: other Government Departments (civil cases); creditors - registered individuals (or businesses) who are owed money and are kept informed about the case (administrative); and public prosecutor office and other Government Departments (criminal).



REMOTE HEARINGS

062-16. If it is possible to organise remote hearings what are the deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - remote hearings are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - remote hearings are not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - remote hearings are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - remote hearings are not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - remote hearings are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - remote hearings are not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments During Covid NICTS had to introduce video conferencing solutions to enable courts and tribunals in NI to operate. NICTS were able to do this under the emergency Coronavirus Act 2020 legislation. Parts of this legislation have been continued to enable remote and hybrid hearing to continue until new legislation can be put in place.

062-17. If it is possible to organise remote hearings, please specify the functionalities and modalities:

Functionalities	Modalities

<p>Civil</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated tool specially designed for the use by courts</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly available tools used by courts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Organisation of private sessions within online hearings for consultation between parties and their lawyers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tools for witness protection (voice distortion, picture distortion)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tools for simultaneous interpretation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tools for automatic subtitling (speech-to-text)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NAP – remote hearings are not possible</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Agreement of the parties is needed</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The judge can impose a remote hearing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NAP – remote hearings are not possible</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p>
<p>Administrative</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated tool specially designed for the use by courts</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly available tools used by courts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Organisation of private sessions within online hearings for consultation between parties and their lawyers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tools for witness protection (voice distortion, picture distortion)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tools for simultaneous interpretation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tools for automatic subtitling (speech-to-text)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NAP – remote hearings are not possible</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Agreement of the parties is needed</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The judge can impose a remote hearing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NAP – remote hearings are not possible</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p>

Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated tool specially designed for the use by courts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly available tools used by courts <input type="checkbox"/> Organisation of private sessions within online hearings for consultation between parties and their lawyers <input type="checkbox"/> Tools for witness protection (voice distortion, picture distortion) <input type="checkbox"/> Tools for simultaneous interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> Tools for automatic subtitling (speech-to-text) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – remote hearings are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement of the parties is needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The judge can impose a remote hearing <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – remote hearings are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
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Comments During Covid NICTS had to introduce video conferencing solutions to enable courts and tribunals in NI to operate. NICTS were able to do this under the emergency Coronavirus Act 2020 legislation. Parts of this legislation have been continued to enable remote and hybrid hearing to continue until new legislation can be put in place.

ELECTRONIC ARCHIVES

062-18. If electronic archives of cases exist, what are the deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Criminal	() 95-100 %	() 95-100 %
	() 75-95 %	() 75-95 %
	() 50-75 %	() 50-75 %
	() 25-50 %	() 25-50 %
	() 1-25 %	() 1-25 %
	() 0 %	() 0 %
	(X) NAP - electronic archives do not exist	(X) NAP - electronic archives do not exist
	[] NA	[] NA

Comments

062-19. If an electronic archive of cases exists, please specify the modalities:

	Electronic or paper
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper archiving is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper archiving is not possible anymore (electronic archiving is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double archiving (paper archiving must accompany the electronic one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper archiving is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper archiving is not possible anymore (electronic archiving is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double archiving (paper archiving must accompany the electronic one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper archiving is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper archiving is not possible anymore (electronic archiving is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double archiving (paper archiving must accompany the electronic one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

3.5.3 Tools

CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (CMS)

062-20. If one or more case management system(s) (CMS) exist, what are the deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - CMS does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - CMS does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - CMS does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - CMS does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - CMS does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - CMS does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

062-21. If one or more case management system(s) (CMS) exist, please specify the functionalities of these system(s):

Functionalities

<p>Civil</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Centralised and/or interoperable CMS databases</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Active case management dashboard</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Random allocation of cases</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Case weighting</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identification of a case between instances (unique or linked id number)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic transfer of a case to another instance/court</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Anonymisation of decisions to be published</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interoperability with other systems (civil register, tax register, insolvency register)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to closed/resolved cases</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced search engine</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected log files</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic signature</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NAP – CMS does not exist</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p>
<p>Administrative</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Centralised and/or interoperable CMS databases</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Active case management dashboard</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Random allocation of cases</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Case weighting</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identification of a case between instances (unique or linked id number)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Electronic transfer of a case to another instance/court</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Anonymisation of decisions to be published</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interoperability with other systems (civil register, tax register, insolvency register)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to closed/resolved cases</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced search engine</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected log files</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic signature</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NAP – CMS does not exist</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p>

Comment - If you have selected the option “Other special functionality”, because of its importance please specify details.

062-22. If one or more case management system(s) (CMS) exist, please specify the functionalities of these system(s):

	Functionalities
Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Centralised and/or interoperable CMS databases <input type="checkbox"/> Active case management dashboard <input type="checkbox"/> Random allocation of cases <input type="checkbox"/> Case weighting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identification of a case between instances (unique or linked id number) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic transfer of a case to another instance/court <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymisation of decisions to be published <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interoperability with prosecution system <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interoperability with other systems (civil register, tax register, insolvency register) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to closed/resolved cases <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced search engine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected log files <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – CMS does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Other special functionality”, please specify the details. Interoperability with other criminal justice organisation systems via the Causeway data sharing hub

WRITING ASSISTANCE TOOLS

062-23. If writing assistance tools exist in courts, what are their deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments There has been a greater use of templates for the recording of court results and the production of court orders and tribunal decisions compared to the previous cycle

062-24. If writing assistance tools exist in courts, please describe their functionalities:

	Functionalities
Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Templates <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatically generated text <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically suggested decision <input type="checkbox"/> Speech-to-text <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic signature <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Templates <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatically generated text <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically suggested decision <input type="checkbox"/> Speech-to-text <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic signature <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Templates <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatically generated text <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically suggested decision <input type="checkbox"/> Speech-to-text <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic signature <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
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Comment - If you have selected the option “Other special functionality”, please specify the details. There has been a greater use of templates for the recording of court results and the production of court orders and tribunal decisions compared to the previous cycle

RECORDING OF COURT HEARINGS

062-25. If a tool to record court hearings exists, what are the deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

062-26. If a tool to record court hearings exist, please specify its functionalities:

	Functionalities
Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio recording <input type="checkbox"/> Video recording <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic recording for all hearings <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically indexed recording <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic transcript from recording <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Possibility to request a copy of the recording <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio recording <input type="checkbox"/> Video recording <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic recording for all hearings <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically indexed recording <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic transcript from recording <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Possibility to request a copy of the recording <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio recording <input type="checkbox"/> Video recording <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic recording for all hearings <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically indexed recording <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic transcript from recording <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Possibility to request a copy of the recording <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Other special functionality”, please specify the details.

DATABASE OF COURT DECISIONS

062-27. If there is a national database of court decisions, please provide the percentage of the decisions published at each instance.

	Percentage of 1st instance decisions published	Percentage of 2nd instance decisions published	Percentage of Supreme court decisions published
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

062-28. If there is a national database of court decisions, please specify the modalities in publishing these decisions:

	1st instance	2nd instance	Supreme court
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA

- If you have selected the option “Other” because the court decisions are published online in some other way than the presented modalities, please describe.

062-29. If there is a database of court decisions at national level, what are the functionalities of this database?

	Functionalities
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic anonymisation <input type="checkbox"/> Manual anonymisation <input type="checkbox"/> Free public online access <input type="checkbox"/> Link to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) <input type="checkbox"/> Open data <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced search engine <input type="checkbox"/> Machine-readable content <input type="checkbox"/> Structured content <input type="checkbox"/> Metadata <input type="checkbox"/> European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic anonymisation <input type="checkbox"/> Manual anonymisation <input type="checkbox"/> Free public online access <input type="checkbox"/> Link to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) <input type="checkbox"/> Open data <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced search engine <input type="checkbox"/> Machine-readable content <input type="checkbox"/> Structured content <input type="checkbox"/> Metadata <input type="checkbox"/> European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic anonymisation <input type="checkbox"/> Manual anonymisation <input type="checkbox"/> Free public online access <input type="checkbox"/> Link to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) <input type="checkbox"/> Open data <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced search engine <input type="checkbox"/> Machine-readable content <input type="checkbox"/> Structured content <input type="checkbox"/> Metadata <input type="checkbox"/> European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Other special functionality”, please specify the details.

STATISTICAL TOOLS

062-30. If there are statistical tools for analysing court case data, what is their deployment rate?

	Deployment rate
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments Link to NICTS statistics section on the Department of Justice website: <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/nicts-judicial-statistics>

062-31. If there are statistical tools for analysing court case data, please describe their functionalities and the data available for statistical analysis:

	Functionalities	Data available for statistical analysis
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> Integration/connection with the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> Business intelligence software <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generation of predefined statistical reports <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generation of customised statistical reports <input type="checkbox"/> Internal page and/or dashboard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External page with statistics (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Real-time data availability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatic consolidation of data at the national level <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case flow data (number of incoming, resolved, pending) <input type="checkbox"/> Age of a pending case <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Length of proceedings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Number of hearings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cases per judge <input type="checkbox"/> Case weights <input type="checkbox"/> Number of parties in a case <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indicator of appeal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result of the appeal <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Integration/connection with the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> Business intelligence software <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generation of predefined statistical reports <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generation of customised statistical reports <input type="checkbox"/> Internal page and/or dashboard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External page with statistics (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Real-time data availability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatic consolidation of data at the national level <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case flow data (number of incoming, resolved, pending) <input type="checkbox"/> Age of a pending case <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Length of proceedings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Number of hearings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cases per judge <input type="checkbox"/> Case weights <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Number of parties in a case <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indicator of appeal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result of the appeal <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Integration/connection with the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> Business intelligence software <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generation of predefined statistical reports <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generation of customised statistical reports <input type="checkbox"/> Internal page and/or dashboard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External page with statistics (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Real-time data availability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatic consolidation of data at the national level <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case flow data (number of incoming, resolved, pending) <input type="checkbox"/> Age of a pending case <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Length of proceedings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Number of hearings <input type="checkbox"/> Cases per judge <input type="checkbox"/> Case weights <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Number of parties in a case <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indicator of appeal <input type="checkbox"/> Result of the appeal <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Other special functionality”, please specify the details Link to NICTS statistics section on the Department of Justice website: <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/nicts-judicial-statistics>

OTHER TOOLS

062-32. Is there any application for online court-related dispute resolution?

() Yes

No

Comments

062-33. If yes, is there a maximum value over which online court-related dispute resolution cannot be organised?

Yes, please specify the maximum value

No

Comments

062-34. If yes, can the online court-related dispute resolution be used in the following areas?

Small claim litigation

Undisputed claim

Payment order

Misdemeanour criminal cases

Enforcement of civil cases

Other, please specify

Comment: Please describe the existing online procedures:

062-35. Is there a computerised national record centralising all criminal convictions?

Yes

No

Comments

062-36. If yes, please specify the following information:

The computerised record includes biometric data (ex. fingerprint data, picture)

The computerised record is linked to other European records of the same nature (ex. ECRIS)

The content is directly available through computerised means for judges and/or prosecutors (ex. interoperability with the CMS)

The content is directly available for purposes other than criminal (ex. civil and administrative matters)

The record contains conviction information on third-country nationals and stateless persons

Comments

062-37. Is there a Document Management System (DMS) in the registry of courts?

Yes

No

Comment: If yes, please provide details on the purposes and usage of this system.

062-38. In addition to the tools listed in the ICT section of this questionnaire does your judicial system use other innovative ICT tools?

Yes

No

Comment: If yes, please list and describe these ICT tools.

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

Comments

3.6.2 Measuring court/public prosecution services

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 & freedom of information

Comments Monitoring of pending cases and clearance rate have been introduced since the last cycle.

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
within the courts	()	(X)
within the public prosecution services	()	(X)

Comments We do not actively monitor waiting times in this context.

073. Do you have a system to evaluate regularly court performance based on the monitored indicators of question 70?

- Yes
- No

Comments

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

- Annual

- Less frequent
- 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?

- Yes
- No

Comments

073-2. If yes, which courses of action are taken (multiple replies possible)?

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

Comments

073-3. Do you have a system to evaluate regularly the performance of the public prosecution services based on the monitored indicators of question 70-1?

- 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 (multiple replies possible)?

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

=

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 and NICTS) resourced by statisticians who provide quality assured statistical reports. All management grades are also responsible for evaluating the performance of their team to ensure that targets are on track to be met.track

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 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

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

Yes, on the internet (please provide the link)NI Courts and Tribunals Service Statistics | Department of Justice (justice-ni.gov.uk)

No, only internally (on an intranet website)

No

=

080-2. Is there a centralised institution that is responsible for collecting statistical data regarding

the functioning of the public prosecution services?

(X) Yes (please indicate the name and the address of this institution):Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).
Statistics and Research Team, Laganside House, Belfast. NISRA Statisticians are seconded to the PPS.

() No

Comments

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

(X) Yes, on the internet (please provide the link)<https://www.ppsni.gov.uk/>

() 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 primarily 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. for whom the report is primarily 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:

- Internet
- Intranet (internal) website
- Paper distribution

Comments

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

- Annual
- Less frequent
- More frequent

Comments

3.6.4 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 these 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

083-1-1. What are the consequences for a judge if these targets are not met?

	Consequences:
Without disciplinary procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Warning by court's president
	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary salary reduction
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reflected in the individual assessment
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: [Comment]

With disciplinary procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Warning by court's president <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary salary reduction <input type="checkbox"/> Reflected in the individual assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: [Comment]
-	<input type="checkbox"/> No consequences
-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP (no targets defined)

Comments

114. Is there a system of individual evaluation of the judges' work?

	Existence of a system of individual evaluation of the judges' work
Quantitative	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Qualitative	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Comment: Please specify the criteria on which the assessment is based, the authority competent for carrying out the assessment, the purposes for which the results of the assessment are used:

114-1. Please specify the frequency of this evaluation:

- Annual
- Less frequent
- More frequent
- Different frequencies used, please specify:
- NAP

=

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

- Yes
- No

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

083-3. Who is responsible for setting these targets for each public prosecutor?

- Executive power (for example the Ministry of Justice)
- Prosecutor General /State public prosecutor
- Public Prosecutorial Council
- Head of the organisational unit or hierarchically superior public prosecutor
- Other (please specify):
- NAP

Comments

083-3-1. What are the consequences for a prosecutor if these targets are not met?

	Consequences:
Without disciplinary procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Warning by head of prosecution <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary salary reduction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reflected in the individual assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: [Comment]Individual improvement plans agreed with line management <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
With disciplinary procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Warning by head of prosecution <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary salary reduction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reflected in the individual assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: [Comment]Individual improvement plans agreed with line management <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
No consequences	<input type="checkbox"/> No consequences <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

120. Is there a system of individual evaluation of the public prosecutors' work?

	Existence of a system of individual evaluation of the public prosecutors' work
Quantitative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Qualitative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comment: Please specify the criteria on which the assessment is based, the authority competent for carrying out the assessment, the purposes for which the results of the assessment are used: -Assessment of performance against casework targets by line managers. -Dip sampling of cases by senior managers. -Qualitative line management assessment (e.g. casework quality, prosecutor performance at court). -Annual and in-year performance reviews.

120-1. Please specify the frequency of this evaluation:

- Annual
- Less frequent
- More frequent
- Different frequencies used, please specify:
- NAP

Comments Bi-annually, or more frequently if required depending upon individual circumstances.

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

4. Fair trial

4.1. Principles

4.1.1 Principles 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. In this instance, judgements would be given without a defendant or legal representation being present. However, we would have no way of identifying the percentage of cases where this would happen. However, in every instance, sentence is only given when there is proof that the defendant is aware of the proceedings either through previous attendances at court or via an endorsement of service that confirms that court papers were personally served and the defendant was aware that there was a prosecution case against them.

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:

085-1. If yes, what are:

	-
The total number of the initiated procedures in the reference year	[X] NA [] NAP
The total number of recusals pronounced in the reference year	[X] NA [] NAP

Comment - Please, could you briefly specify:

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

For civil cases

For criminal cases

For administrative cases

NAP

Comments

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

Sources: Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service

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:

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 judgement procedures exist in civil cases and administrative cases. Criminal cases include fixed penalty and penalty notice of disorder 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 Court

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 etc.)?

	Yes	No
Agreement on general arrangements	(X)	()
Agreement in specific cases	(X)	()

Comments

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
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)	[X] NA [] NAP	45 737 [] NA [] NAP	32 841 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
1. Civil (and commercial) litigious cases (including litigious enforcement cases and if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
2. Non litigious cases (2.1+2.2+2.3)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
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)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
2.2. Registry cases (2.2.1+2.2.2+2.2.3)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

2.2.1. Non litigious land registry cases	<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
2.2.2 Non-litigious business registry cases	<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
2.2.3. Other registry cases	<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
2.3. Other non-litigious cases	<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
3. Administrative law cases	<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
4. Other cases	<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 The numbers provided for incoming and resolved cases reflect an increase 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. This impacted on caseload figures reported in the previous evaluation cycle. 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.

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

. NAP

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

. NAP

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

Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	39 957 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	39 301 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. Severe criminal cases	<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
2. Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	<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
3. Other criminal cases	<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 Pending cases are not available from statistical files as the files are date bound to keep them within extractable size limits. All pending case are held within the courts operational system, however to identify and extract this information would be disproportionate. There are no categories of severe criminal , misdemeanour criminal, minor criminal or other cases on the operational courts system, and so this information is not available. The numbers provided for incoming and resolved cases reflect an increase 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. This impacted on caseload figures reported in the previous evaluation cycle. 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.

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
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)	<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
1. Civil (and commercial) litigious cases (including litigious enforcement cases and if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3)	<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
2. Non litigious cases (2.1+2.2+2.3)	<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

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)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
2.2. Registry cases (2.2.1+2.2.2+2.2.3)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
2.2.1. Non litigious land registry cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
2.2.2 Non-litigious business registry cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
2.2.3. Other registry cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
2.3. Other non-litigious cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
3. Administrative law cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
4. Other cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] 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
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
1. Severe criminal cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
2. Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

3. Other criminal cases	<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: This information is not captured on the Operational Courts system and is therefore not available. The UK Supreme Court is the final court of appeal in the UK for civil and criminal cases from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals service does not record information relating to this court tier.

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
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)	<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
1. Civil (and commercial) litigious cases (including litigious enforcement cases and if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3)	<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
2. Non litigious cases (2.1+2.2+2.3)	<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
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)	<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
2.2. Registry cases (2.2.1+2.2.2+2.2.3)	<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
2.2.1. Non litigious land registry cases	<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
2.2.2 Non-litigious business registry cases	<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
2.2.3. Other registry cases	<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

2.3. Other non-litigious cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
3. Administrative law cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
4. Other cases	[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.

	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
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
1. Severe criminal cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
2. Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
3. Other criminal cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] 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 cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the first instance court
Litigious divorce cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Employment dismissal cases	<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
Insolvency	<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
Robbery case	<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
Intentional homicide	<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 This information is not captured on the Operational Courts system and is therefore not available.

=

101-0. Number of 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 cases for more than 2 years
Court cases relating to asylum seekers (refugee status under the 1951 Geneva Convention)	<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
Court cases relating to the right of entry and stay for aliens	<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

101-1. 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

NICTS 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
Child sexual abuse	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
Child pornography	[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 length of the entire procedure (in days)	% of cases pending for more than 3 years for all instances
Civil and commercial litigious cases	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP
Litigious divorce cases	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP
Employment dismissal cases	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP
Insolvency cases	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP
Robbery cases	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP
Intentional homicide cases	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP

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 applicable as data is not available.

4.2.6 Case flow management – public prosecution

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

- to conduct or supervise investigation
- 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
1.Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	6 718 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.Incoming/received cases	44 687 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

3.Processed cases (3.1+3.2+3.3+3.4)	49 367 [] NA [] NAP
3.1.Discontinued during the reference year (3.1.1+3.1.2+3.1.3+3.1.4.)	16 128 [] NA [] NAP
3.1.1 Discontinued by the public prosecutor because the offender could not be identified	0 [] NA [] 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	16 128 [] NA [] NAP
3.2.Concluded by a penalty or a measure imposed or negotiated by the public prosecutor	3 046 [] NA [] NAP
3.3.Cases brought to court	30 193 [] NA [] NAP
4.Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year	2 038 [] NA [] NAP

Comments PPS provided the number of cases including those pending on 1 Jan and 31 Dec of the reference year

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 Statistical Bulletin 2022-23: PPS Statistical Bulletin 2022-23 | Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland

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?

- through a competitive exam (open competition)
- through a recruitment procedure for experienced legal professionals (for example experienced lawyers)
- other (please specify):

Comments

110-1. Please briefly describe the recruitment procedure(s) for judges in your country:

. The selection processes are designed to enable NIJAC to select persons for judicial office on the basis of merit, having considered their eligibility, suitability and integrity.

Eligibility - Once application forms are submitted they will be checked to ensure applicants meet the statutory eligibility criteria.

Shortlisting - This process will identify the applicants who will progress to the Final Assessment stage.

Final Assessment - The final assessment can take a number of formats and the methods used will be dependent on the role being recruited for.

Pre-Appointment Checks - Following attendance at the final assessment stage, the most meritorious applicant(s) identified are subject to a series of pre-appointment checks prior to an offer of appointment.

Recommendation - Once the pre-appointment checks are completed the Selection Committee will submit a recommendation report to the appropriate authority. For NIJAC appointments this is NIJAC's Plenary and for Crown Appointments this is the Crown Office.

110-2. What are the recruitment requirements for judges (multiple replies possible)?

- Age
- Nationality
- Physical/Psychological capacity
- General studies in law
- Advanced studies in law (Master, PhD)
- Number of years of relevant experience
- Traineeship/judicial functions in courts
- Validation of a general state examination in law
- Validation of a specific examination for judges

- Clean criminal record
- Foreign languages
- Personal requirements (related to integrity)
- Other
- NAP

Comments - If “other”, please specify: Statutory requirements for appointment to judicial office are set out in governing legislation for the particular judicial office under recruitment. NIJAC may only appoint or recommend for appointment to judicial office those who meet the statutory eligibility requirements.

Age

Applicants are subject to the statutory retirement age for the office (A reasonable period of service before retirement is expected.)

Nationality Requirements

Applicants usually must fulfil at least one of the following nationality requirements:

- be a citizen of the United Kingdom;
- be a citizen of Ireland;
- be a citizen of a Commonwealth country;
- hold dual nationality, one of which falls within the above criteria.

Typically for legal appointments, you will need to be a fully qualified barrister or solicitor for a stated period (usually a minimum of 5, to 7 and 10 years). NIJAC look for evidence demonstrating how applicants meet the knowledge, skills, personal qualities and any specific experience if required for the role.

110-3. In the frame of these recruitments, please indicate the number of applicants for the position of judge and the number of recruitments actually made during the reference year:

	Total	Males	Females
Number of applicants	485 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	227 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	258 <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Number of recruited persons	65 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	26 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	39 <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments The figures are taken from Equality Monitoring Statistics for 2022-23

110-4. If the number of applicants decreased in the last years did you take any remedial measures?

- Yes
- No

Comments NAP. The number of applicants increased.

110-5. If yes, please specify what remedies you implemented:

- Increase of salary
- Other financial incentives
- Improving working conditions
- Workload reduction at the beginning of career
- Other adjustments in the frame of the induction of new judges
- Other

Comments: If “other”, please, specify:

=

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) responsible for the whole procedure of recruitment and nomination of judges. If there are several authorities, please describe their respective roles: The Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission (NIJAC) is the responsible authority, comprising members drawn from the judiciary (5 judicial members), legal profession and other backgrounds. The five judicial members are nominated by the Lady Chief Justice and appointed by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister acting jointly. The legal members are nominated by The Bar Council of Northern Ireland and Law Society of Northern Ireland. The lay members are also appointed by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister acting jointly and are members who do not hold (or have never held) a protected judicial office and are not (and have never been) a barrister or solicitor.

111-1. How many members compose this authority?

	Total	Males	Females
Members	12	9	3
	<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/appointing its members: NIJAC is an independent public body established to bring about a new system for appointing members of the judiciary in Northern Ireland. NIJAC is now an appointing body with a say over the judicial complement and determining certain elements (non-financial) of some Terms and Conditions. NIJAC was established under the Justice (Northern Ireland) Acts 2002 & 2004 which implemented the recommendations of the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice Review which flowed from the Belfast Agreement (1998). The Belfast Agreement provided for a wide-ranging review of criminal justice in Northern Ireland. Upon the devolution of justice on 12 April 2010, the Northern Ireland Act 2009 extended its statutory duties even further.

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

- Yes
- No

Comments – Please specify the procedure to be followed, the competent authority, the moment for exercising the right of appeal:

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

- Yes
- No

Comments - No, please specify which authority is competent for promoting judges NIJAC conduct the appointments process and select and recommend for appointment in respect of all listed judicial appointments up to, and including, High Court Judge. NIJAC does not 'promote' judges. Judges may choose to progress their careers by applying to serve at a higher tier. This is through open competition, as was their original appointment.

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

- Competitive test / Exam

- Previous individual evaluations
- Other procedure(s) (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) and how the publicity of promotion processes is ensured:

113-0. In the frame of the promotion procedures, please indicate the number of applicants and the number of promotions actually made during the reference year:

	Total	Males	Females
Number of applicants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Number of promoted persons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

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”): The NI Judicial Appointment Commission’s role is to recruit and select for judicial office, there is no ‘promotion’ route as such. If a serving ‘junior’ judge wishes to be elevated to a higher tier they will have to apply in open competition.

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. The independence of the Director of Public Prosecutions (as head of the PPS) is set out in legislation.

115-1. Are specific instructions addressed to a public prosecutor to prosecute or not prohibited by law or other regulation?

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify: Under s32A of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002, a person commits an offence if, with the intention of perverting the course of justice, he seeks to influence the Director, the Deputy Director or a Public Prosecutor in any decision as to whether to institute or continue criminal proceedings. A person also commits an offence if, with the intention of perverting the course of justice, he seeks to influence a barrister or solicitor to whom the Director has under section 36(2) assigned the institution or conduct of any criminal proceedings in any decision as to whether to institute or continue those proceedings.

115-2. If they are prohibited by law or other regulation, are there exceptions?

Yes

No

NAP

Comments - Please describe these exceptions:

115-3. Which authority can issue such specific instructions?

General Prosecutor

Higher prosecutor/Head of prosecution office

Executive power

Other

NAP

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?

- through a competitive exam (open competition)
- through a recruitment procedure for experienced legal professionals (for example experienced lawyers)
- other (please specify):

Comments

116-1. Please briefly describe the recruitment procedure(s) for prosecutors in your country:

. Recruitment is initiated by way of internal and external public-facing trawls, and more targeted promotion when deemed necessary (for example through professional legal authoritative bodies). Sifting exercises will be used to define the recruitment pool, to satisfy requirements for relevant experience and qualifications. Interviews are undertaken (conducted by panels of senior internal prosecutors), which are graded appropriately to identify successful candidates.

116-2. What are the recruitment requirements for prosecutors (multiple replies possible)?

- Age
- Nationality
- Physical/Psychological capacity
- General studies in law
- Advanced studies in law (Master, PhD)
- Number of years of relevant experience
- Traineeship/judicial functions in courts
- Validation of a general state examination in law
- Validation of a specific examination for prosecutors
- Clean criminal record
- Foreign languages
- Personal requirements (related to integrity)

Other

NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify:

116-3. In the frame of these recruitments, please indicate the number of applicants for the position of prosecutor and the number of recruitments actually made during the reference year:

	Total	Males	Females
Number of applicants	20 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Number of recruited persons	8 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

116-4. If the number of applicants decreased in the last years did you take any remedial measures?

Yes

No

Comments

116-5. If yes, please specify what remedies you implemented:

Increase of salary

Other financial incentives

Improving working conditions

Workload reduction at the beginning of career

Other adjustments in the frame of the induction of new prosecutors

Other

Comments: If "other", please, specify:

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) responsible for the whole procedure of recruitment and nomination of public prosecutors. If there are several authorities, please describe their respective roles: Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland

117-1. How many members compose this authority?

	Total	Male	Female
Members	460 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	161 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	299 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

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

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

- Yes
- No

Comments – Please specify the procedure to be followed, the competent authority, the moment for exercising the right of appeal: Northern Ireland Civil Service policies apply.

118. Is the same authority (Q.117) competent 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 replies possible)

- Competitive test / exam
- Previous individual evaluations
- Other procedure(s) (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) and how the publicity of promotion processes is ensured: The appropriate criteria is decided in advance of any advertising and set out in the Candidate Information Booklet/leaflet.

119-1. In the frame of the promotion procedures, please indicate the number of applicants and the number of promotions actually made during the reference year:

	Total	Males	Females
Number of applicants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Number of promoted persons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

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

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

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: Dismissal – on grounds of misbehaviour or inability to perform functions of the office.

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:

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 of 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

[X] NAP

Comments

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

[]

[] NA

[X] NAP

Comments

126-1. Is it renewable?

() Yes

() No

[X] 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
Initial training (e.g. attend a judicial school, traineeship in a court)	() Yes (X) No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
General in-service training	() Yes (X) No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training for specialised judicial functions (e.g. judge for economic or administrative issues)	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training for management functions of the court (e.g. court president)	() Yes (X) No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training for the use of computer facilities in courts	() Yes (X) No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training on ethics	() Yes (X) No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training on child-friendly justice	() Yes (X) No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No

In-service training on gender equality	() Yes (X) No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
Other in- service training	() Yes (X) No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No

Comments

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

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

128-1. Do you have a minimum number of compulsory trainings per judge:

	Per judge
Initial compulsory training – minimum number of trainings	_____ Min numeric value allowed : 0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Initial compulsory training – minimum number of days	_____ Min numeric value allowed : 0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
In-service compulsory trainings – minimum number of trainings per year	_____ Min numeric value allowed : 0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
In-service compulsory trainings – minimum number of days per year	_____ Min numeric value allowed : 0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

5.2.2 Training of prosecutors

129. Types of different trainings offered to public prosecutors:

	Compulsory	Optional	No training proposed
Initial training	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
General in-service training	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training for specialised functions (e.g. public prosecutors specialised in organised crime)	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training for management functions (e.g. Head of prosecution office, manager)	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training for the use of computer facilities in office	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training on ethics	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training on child-friendly justice	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training on gender equality	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
Other in- service training	(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
General in-service training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed
In-service training for specialised functions (e.g. public prosecutor specialised in organised crime)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed
In-service training for management functions (e.g. Head of prosecution office, manager)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed
In-service training for the use of computer facilities in office	<input type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed
In-service training on ethics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed
In-service training on child-friendly justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed
In-service training on gender equality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed
Other in- service training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed

Comments - Please indicate any information on the periodicity of the in-service training of prosecutors: As and when required

130-1. Do you have a minimum number of compulsory trainings per prosecutor:

	Per prosecutor
Initial compulsory training – minimum number of trainings	_____ Min numeric value allowed : 0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Initial compulsory training – minimum number of days	_____ Min numeric value allowed : 0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
In-service compulsory trainings – minimum number of trainings per year	_____ Min numeric value allowed : 0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
In-service compulsory trainings – minimum number of days per year	_____ Min numeric value allowed : 0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Institution(s) for prosecutors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institution(s) for both judges and prosecutors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments Not for prosecutors

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

	Implemented budget of the institution for the reference year, in €
Institution(s) for judges	258 948 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Institution(s) for prosecutors	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Institution(s) for both judges and prosecutors	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments Among the main reasons for the differences in the amounts for 20/21 year and the 21/22 year were that: 1. we were moving back from online to (the more expensive) face-to-face training format as COVID restrictions eased; 2. in the latter financial year there was an increase in the number of new judges requiring induction training; 3. there was also an increase (with associated backfill costs – i.e. paying for deputy judges to cover sittings) in the number of full day workshops; and, 4. JSB had to cover the costs for hosting a major Bilateral conference involving senior judges from the Republic of Ireland and this jurisdiction in that financial year.

131-1. If judges and/or prosecutors have no compulsory initial training in such institutions, please indicate briefly how 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).

5.2.4 Number of trainings

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

	Number of different live (in person, hybrid, videoconference) trainings available	Number of live (in person, hybrid, videoconference) trainings delivered	Number of days of delivered live (in person, hybrid, videoconference) trainings	Number of internet-based trainings available on the e-learning platform of the training institution (not live)
Total	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
For judges	32 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
For prosecutors	[X] NA [] NAP	48 [] NA [] NAP	189 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
For non-judge staff	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
For non-prosecutor staff	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Comments

131-3. Number of participants in the trainings during the reference year.

	Number of participants in live (in-person, hybrid, videoconference) trainings	Number of participants in internet-based trainings provided on the e-learning platform of the training institution (not live)
Total	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Judges	32 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
Prosecutors	233 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
Non-judge staff	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
Non-prosecutor staff	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Comments

E2. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Judicial Studies Board, Lady Chief Justices Office, Public Prosecution Service

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	137 739 [] NA [] NAP	80 928 [] NA [] NAP	118 237 [] NA [] NAP	69 470 [] NA [] NAP
Judge of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court (please indicate the highest salary of a judge at this level, excluding the salary of the Court President)	263 572 [] NA [] NAP	150 589 [] NA [] NAP	225 978 [] NA [] NAP	129 110 [] NA [] NAP
Public prosecutor at the beginning of his/her career	46 505 [] NA [] NAP	33 949 [] NA [] NAP	39 748 [] NA [] NAP	29 016 [] NA [] NAP
Public prosecutor of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Instance (please indicate the highest salary of a public prosecutor at this level, excluding the salary of the Attorney General).	78 861 [] NA [] NAP	52 837 [] NA [] NAP	67 403 [] NA [] NAP	45 160 [] NA [] NAP

Comment – Please describe briefly how the salaries are determined during the career of a judge/prosecutor: Judicial salaries for the expected judiciary in Northern Ireland are determined by the Lord Chancellor and the Ministry of Justice publish judicial salaries

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

(X) 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 guidelines and/or opinions on ethical questions of the conduct of judges (e.g. involvement in political life, use of social media by judges, etc.)?

() Yes

(X) No

Comment - Please specify:

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 guidelines and/or opinions of this institution / body publicly available?

Yes

No

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

138-2-1. How many guidelines and/or opinions were given during the reference year?

[]

[] NA

Comments – Please specify what were the topics addressed in these guidelines and/or opinions

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

Yes

No

Comment: Please specify

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

Only prosecutors

Prosecutors and other legal professionals

Other, please specify: All civil servants employed in the Northern Ireland Civil Service (including public prosecutors).

However, employees are not considered to be members.

Comments The Northern Ireland Civil Service, insofar as public prosecutors are civil servants and subject to the same guidelines relating to conduct as all civil servants.

138-5. Are the guidelines and/or opinions of this institution / body publicly available?

Yes

No

Comments - Please describe the work of this institution / body, the frequency of opinions, etc. The Law Society of Northern Ireland and Bar Library of Northern Ireland have the authority to issue guidance and opinion in relation to ethics and conduct as legal professionals for those prosecutors who are also members of these bodies.

The Northern Ireland Civil Service issues guidance and opinion on conduct of all civil servants, including public prosecutors.

138-5-1. How many guidelines and/or opinions were given during the reference year?

[]

[X] NA

Comments – Please specify what were the topics addressed in these guidelines and/or opinions

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
- Ombudsman
- Parliament
- Executive power (please specify):

Other (please specify): Lady Chief Justice (Northern Ireland) a Lord Justice of Appeal, Tribunal Presidents/Chairmen. [Another Lord/Lady 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
- 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): Lady Chief Justice (Northern Ireland) a Lord Justice of Appeal, and 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
Total number (1+2+3+4)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. Breach of professional ethics	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. Professional inadequacy	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. Criminal offence	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
4. Other	<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:

Judges	Prosecutors
--------	-------------

Total number (total 1 to 10)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
1. Reprimand	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
2. Suspension	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
3. Withdrawal from cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
4. Fine	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
5. Temporary reduction of salary	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
6. Position downgrade	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
7. Transfer to another geographical (court) location	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
8. Resignation	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
9. Other	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
10. Dismissal	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] 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: Lady Chief Justice’s Office; Public Prosecution Service

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	Males	Females
Number of lawyers	791 [] NA	510 [] NA	281 [] NA

Comments

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:

[]

[X] 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 [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP
Dismissal cases	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP
Criminal cases – Defendant	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP
Criminal cases – Victim	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP
Administrative cases	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] 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)
Civil society organisation	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Family member	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
Self-representation	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Trade union	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Other	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () 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 (please specify):

Comments

149-2. Professional lawyers may have the status of:

- 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 of Northern Ireland

6.1.2 Practicing the profession of lawyer



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)?

[X] 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 for lawyers

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
Total number of disciplinary proceedings initiated (1 + 2 + 3 + 4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. Breach of professional ethics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. Professional inadequacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

3. Criminal offence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
4. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify:

162. Sanctions pronounced against lawyers.

	Number of sanctions
Total number of sanctions (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. Reprimand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. Suspension	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. Withdrawal from cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
4. Fine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
5. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

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?

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

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
Civil and commercial cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP
Family cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP
Administrative cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP
Labour cases including employment dismissals	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP
Criminal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP
Consumer cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No [] NAP

Comments

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

Yes

No

[] NAP

Comments - If yes, please specify:

=

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

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

Comments

166-1. Could you please describe what are the requirements and what is the procedure to become an accredited or registered mediator in your country (educational requirements, working experiences, accrediting procedure etc.)?

. There is an application process for solicitors wishing to become mediators with the Law Society Mediation Service. This involves applicants providing information on their area of focus, mediation training, professional qualifications and educational qualifications. It is essential that applicants have completed a course of training that covers all of the following elements:

- Distinction between Adjudicative and Consensual outcomes
- The developments in Mediation in common law and other civil jurisdictions
- The progression of disputes and the opportunities for ADR processes
- The role of ADR in the Civil Justice system
- The formulation and content of the Mediation Contract
- The standardised and flexible models of facilitative Mediation
- The conventional phases of Mediation
- The obligations of a Mediator in arranging a Mediation appointment
- The obligations of a Mediator in the course of a Mediation
- The dynamic of the private meeting or caucus
- The obligations of a Mediator after the completion of the Mediation
- The benefits of de-brief, self reflection and the maintenance of a Mediation Log
- Recognition of core skills of impartiality, independence, avoidance of conflicts of interest and fairness
- The study and practice of all mediation skills and in particular the need for authoritative party specific presentation, listening, facilitative management, organisation, appropriate diverse question techniques, summarising, re-framing, reality testing, resourceful solution thinking and negotiation
- The ability to assist in the formulation of settlements
- The ability to identify and deal with potential ethical problems which may arise
- The legal structure of a Mediation taking place under contract
- The need for Professional Indemnity Insurance
- The requirement for and limitations of confidentiality within the Mediation Contract
- The public policy and evidential implications of the “Without Prejudice“ rule
- The professional and ethical obligations of a lawyer Mediator
- The requirement to engage in monitored / assessed simulated party and Mediator role plays

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
Total (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
1. Civil and commercial cases	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

2. Family cases	<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
3. Administrative cases	<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
4. Labour cases including employment dismissal cases	<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
5. Criminal cases	<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
6. Consumer cases	<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
7. Other cases	<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

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

Source: NAP

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
Total (1+2+3+4)	12 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	7 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	5 <input type="checkbox"/> NA

1. Private professionals under the authority (control) of public authorities	<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
2. Enforcement agents working in a public institution (civil servants paid by state)	11 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	7 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	4 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. Judges	1 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	1 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
4. Other	<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 their status and competences: Judge is the Master (Enforcement of Judgments Office) and Enforcement Agents are the Chief Enforcement Officer, Deputy Chief Enforcement Officer, Senior Enforcement Officer, Enforcement Officers and Nominated Officers.

1. In the Enforcement of Judgments Office (EJO) AND Enforcement Agents are the Master (Enforcement of Judgments Office), the Chief Enforcement Officer (including his Deputies), Enforcement Officers. All have statutory powers made under the Judgments Enforcement (NI) Order 1981. They also exercise their functions in accordance with Article 8 of the Judgments Enforcement (NI) Order 1981. 2. The Master is appointed under section 70 of the Judicature (NI) Act 1978. Her role is to (a) Exercise judicial functions and discretion in determining contested cases;

(b) Ensure all the legislative requirements are followed;

(c) To make orders of enforcement (by application of the Chief Enforcement Officer)

3. The Chief Enforcement Officer is designated by the Department of Justice of Northern Ireland, and the powers to issue summons to compel debtors to a means examination, issue specific enforcement orders and make certain applications for enforcement to the EJO master. 4. An Enforcement Officer is designated by the Department of Justice of Northern Ireland and is responsible for the completion of means reports, the service of certain enforcement orders and the execution of Orders for Delivery of Possession of Land and Orders for the Delivery of Possession of Goods and Orders of Seizure. 5. A Nominated Officer is an officer nominated by the Chief Enforcement Officer under Rule 23 of the Judgments Enforcement Rules (NI) 1981 to conduct examinations of means under oath, and to apply a statutory oath for the purposes of that examination. They also have the power to refer conducts of examination to the Master. "Enforcement agents working in a public institution (civil servants paid by state)" best describes the functions and officers posted in the Enforcement of Judgments Office.

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

- diploma
- professional experience
- specific exam
- appointment procedure by the State
- 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)?

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

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

judges described in category 3 in Q169) can be appointed for life, civil service appointments (such as Enforcement Agents working in a public institution as described in category 2 in Q169) are not for life.

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	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Date of birth	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Civil status	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Cohabitant	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Employer	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Motor vehicle	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Movable property	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Immovable property	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Bank account	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Other enforcement proceedings underway	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Insolvency proceedings (bankruptcy, judicial reorganisation, collective debt settlement etc.)	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Other	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () 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	() Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents (X) Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents () No [] NAP

Preventive 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
Seizure of immovable 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
Preventive seizure of immovable 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
Seizure from a third party of the debtor claims regarding a sum of money	<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
Seizure of remunerations	<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
Seizure of motorised vehicles	<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
Eviction measures	<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
Seizures of boats and ships	<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

Seizure of aircrafts	<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
Seizure of electronic assets (e.g cryptocurrency)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Enforced sale by public tender of seized 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
Sale of shares	<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
Other	<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 In 2018, we took interpreted ‘properties’ as dwelling houses, commercial property etc. In 2020, we re-evaluated the term property. We still 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 Since the Covid lockdown and business recovery, the Enforcement of Judgments Office have employed provisions in the Judgments Enforcement legislation to utilise more widely the use of electronic service of some enforcement measures where possible.

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

Comments From April 2023, The NICTS publishes performance measures with regard to the timeliness to issue an enforcement measure

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)	2 [] NA [] NAP
1. For breach of professional ethics	[] NA [X] NAP
2. For professional inadequacy	2 [] NA [] NAP
3. For criminal offence	[] NA [X] NAP
4. Other	[] NA [X] 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)	2 [] NA [] NAP
1. Reprimand	2 [] NA [] NAP
2. Suspension	[] NA [X] NAP
3. Withdrawal from cases	[] NA [X] NAP
4. Fine	[] NA [X] NAP
5. Other	[] NA [X] 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: NICS Performance Management & Disciplinary Records

8.2. Execution of decisions in criminal matters

8.2.1 Functioning 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: Criminal fine recovery rates are monitored by Finance Branch and recorded within the impairment model which is subject to audit from NIAO. Source - NICTS Finance Branch: 2022-23 Fines impairment model

9. Notaries

9.1. Profession of notary

9.1.1 Number, status and mandate of notaries

192. Number and status of notaries in your country.

Total	Males	Females

TOTAL (1+2+3+4)	40 [] NA [] NAP	28 [] NA [] NAP	12 [] NA [] NAP
1. Private professionals (without control from public authorities)	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
2. Holders of public offices appointed by the State	40 [] NA [] NAP	28 [] NA [] NAP	12 [] NA [] NAP
3. Civil servants (paid by the State)	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
4. Other	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] 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: There have been a number of additional notaries appointed since the previous evaluation cycle

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: until they cease to practice
- no, please specify the duration of the appointment:

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)?

	Please select one option
Authentication	<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

Certification of signatures	<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
Mediation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Taking of oaths	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Non-contentious judicial procedures (e.g. acting as court commissioner in a successions file, performing divorce, division of estate, please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Act as civil servant (for example performing marriage, please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Other judicial functions (for example, payment orders)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Public auctions	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Other (for example collect taxes, run registers etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input 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 replies 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
Land registry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Business registry	(X) Yes () No [] NAP	() Yes () No [X] NAP
Civil status/ Population registry	() Yes () No [X] NAP	() Yes () No [X] NAP
Succession / Family law registry	(X) Yes () No [] NAP	() Yes () No [X] NAP
Any other registry (please specify)	() Yes () No [X] NAP	() Yes () No [X] NAP
None	() Yes () No [X] NAP	() Yes () No [X] NAP

Comments

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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?

- (X) 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

11. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: College of Notaries Northern Ireland

10. Judicial experts

10.1. Profession of judicial expert

10.1.1 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

(X) 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
Initial training	() Yes (X) No
Continuous training	() Yes (X) 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
- (X) 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?

- (X) Yes
- () No

Comments - If yes, please specify:

205. Number of accredited or registered judicial experts:

	Total	Males	Females
Number of experts	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Comments

206-1. Number of cases where an expert opinion was ordered by a judge or requested by the parties

	Number of cases
Total (1+2+3+4)	[X] NA [] NAP

1.Civil and commercial litigious cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.Administrative cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3.Criminal cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
4.Other cases	<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
Defined by law/by-law or a special regulation	<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
Defined by the court/judge	<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
Defined by the Ministry of Justice or another ministry (setting a tariff for example)	<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
Salary of public official (in case of forensic or another specialist – who is public employee)	<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
Freely agreed between expert and the parties	<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
Other	<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
Deadlines to provide expertise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quality of expertise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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: NICTS

11.Reforms in judiciary

11.1.Foreseen reforms

11.1.1Reforms



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: NICTS Transformation The use of enhanced technology and improved buildings to modernise courts and tribunals, better support access to justice and to improve the experience of people who use our services and facilities has been recommended within a range of significant independent reports that focus on how the justice system can be improved within Northern Ireland. These include the Access to Justice Reviews, Reviews of Civil and Family Justice, the Gillen Review into the Law and Procedures in Serious Sexual Offences, the DoJ Digital Justice Strategy for NI (2020-2025) and within reports produced by Criminal Justice Inspection NI (CJINI). Our Services and Technology
The legal system is complex and having a case come before a court or tribunal can be a daunting experience. Although NICTS is only one organisation within the wider justice system, we recognise that the services we currently provide need to be redesigned in a way that removes the complexity and barriers that exist within them and to make our services easier to access and use, supported by modern

technology. We continue to work in partnership with the judiciary and justice partners to harness opportunities for dealing with court and tribunal business in new and innovative ways, so that, where appropriate, cases can be dealt with more proportionately and more quickly. Many people now expect to interact with public services digitally and access these online and through mobile apps. NICTS has very limited and outdated technology available in this area. Although we do provide some online services, these need to be completely redesigned to make them accessible and easy to use; and we need to make more of our services available online, rather than requiring people to attend our offices to lodge papers or make payments, or to telephone us for updates on the progression of their cases. The age and condition of our current technology not only significantly constrains how we deliver our services, but also how we administrate internally. NICTS manages its caseload across multiple, aged IT systems that are difficult and expensive to maintain and are at an increasing risk of failure. In addition, these IT systems can't easily be changed to reflect changes in policy or legislation, which can therefore delay the implementation of important changes to the wider justice system. Our IT systems don't integrate or 'talk to each other' and that has created a need to supplement them with many paper-heavy clerical processes and outdated working practices. Indeed, our Tribunals teams do not have any IT solution in place to help them manage the progression and administration of their caseload. Collectively, these issues mean that it takes longer, and costs more than it should to progress the cases we receive. We want to establish more efficient and effective processes that make the most of the resources we have available. We can do this by redesigning our internal processes but need a fit for purpose IT solution that can support these changes and new ways of working. An example of how we can do this through technology is to automate low value tasks and to direct our staff resources to the activities that add the most value to the progression of cases. Another important example will be to introduce an IT solution that will help us triage cases and, ensure that the right information is available for the judiciary in advance. By implementing an IT solution that can provide additional validation and controls and can automate interactions with people including the legal profession, litigants in person and other organisations, we can help reduce the level of adjournments that are needed pending the submission of additional documentation and evidence before the court or tribunal. Such a solution will help improve the experience of people whose cases come before the courts and tribunals, reduce avoidable delays, and save time and cost within the wider justice system.

The need to urgently develop and implement a new fit-for-purpose, modern IT solution is essential to reduce risk to NICTS, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the administration of courts and tribunals and will be our key enabler to deliver the wholesale transformation that we need.

Our Buildings and Estate

For many years, NICTS has had insufficient funding to adequately maintain or upgrade our buildings to the standard they should be in. Many of our buildings are old, some are listed, and they are becoming increasingly more difficult and expensive to maintain as their condition deteriorates. Many of the component parts of our building such as heating, electricals and plumbing need to be replaced and are at risk of failure. Ultimately this generates risk to the continuity of court and tribunal business, and we will see an increasing need for short or long-term building closures to address condition-based issues. Inevitably this will require the rescheduling or adjournment cases, which may happen at short notice, and in turn will exacerbate existing delay and pressures within the justice system. Not only does this create additional costs for the justice system, but the avoidable adjournment or delay in scheduling of cases has a real and personal negative impact on people whose cases need to come before the court or tribunal. We also need to implement effective solutions to improve the efficiency of our buildings' components and to introduce more carbon-efficient and cost-effective solutions. This will enable us to meet our commitments under the Climate Change Act and operate our buildings at a reduced cost but will require the delivery of a range of sustainability projects across our Estate and additional investment will be required to achieve these long-term gains. A lack of investment and the constraints within the current layouts of our buildings has limited our ability to facilitate appropriate segregation between defendants, victims and witnesses as recommended by the Gillen Reviews and in support of the Victim Charter; and we also have been constrained in the extent to which physical adjustments can be made for people with disabilities who use our buildings. Deficiencies within custody facilities at a number of our courthouses have been evidenced within a 2021 review by Criminal Justice Inspection NI (CJINI). While we have worked in partnership with our colleagues in the NI Prison Service to address the CJINI recommendations, the condition and layout of some of our buildings impedes our ability to fully resolve some of the deficiencies identified and thereby impacts on the type and volume of business that we can conduct at certain venues. We urgently need to improve the condition of the buildings that we provide services from and we need to ensure our buildings are better designed and organised to meet the diverse needs of people who access them. Ultimately these factors impact, at a very personal level, the people whose cases come before our courts and tribunals.

Moving Forward: Vision 2030

The recognised need to transform the administration of our courts and tribunals led to the development of a Vision for the Modernisation of Courts and Tribunals which was announced by the then Minister of Justice to the Assembly in 2021 and agreed with the then Lord Chief Justice. This set out our commitment to:

- Redesign our services to make them better and easier to use;
- Improve access to justice by using modern digital technology and providing online service channels;

- Modernise and reconfigure our physical court and tribunal estate; and
- Achieve a more financially and environmentally sustainable way of operating and delivering our services.

Vision 2030 is the major programme that will transform the NICTS and deliver the above objectives. NICTS is committed to delivering the changes and benefits that this transformation will bring to people who use our services, to our environment and to the wider public purse. But to achieve these, we need to undertake an extensive long-term programme of change and we need to have sufficient Resource and Capital funding to enable us to deliver. Our ambition to transform how we deliver services and operate within NICTS has a clear alignment with that of the other Criminal Justice Organisations we work with in order to speed up the administration and delivery of justice, to achieve better outcomes for people navigating the justice system and to provide real value for money to the taxpayer.

We have engaged closely with the Strategic Investment Board as we have developed our transformation proposals and in recognition of the impact these will have within the justice system, these have been included within the draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI) that will be presented to the Executive in due course.

The flagship Vision 2030 programmes of work are: Themis – a business transformation and IT project that will fundamentally change both how we deliver services to citizens and our internal processes. This project will deliver a new digital solution that will provide citizens and the legal profession with online access to services and will enable them to securely track the progress of their cases. In partnership with DoJ, the judiciary and others within the wider justice system, we will seek to exploit opportunities to improve our information gathering in advance of court or tribunal hearings, and we will seek to find ways to reduce the requirement for attendance at our courts and tribunals where alternative ways of transacting with us are available and where these approaches do not compromise the interests of justice. This project will also provide NICTS with a single line of business IT system so that we can administer our caseload more efficiently. The solution will be designed in a way to increase automation within better designed processes and will also provide us with enhanced information and data to help us better analyse, and drive improvements in, our performance.

Upon appointment of a procured delivery partner, this complex project will be implemented on a prioritised and phased basis over a 5-year period and will be designed to reflect the needs of service users, key stakeholders, and staff. Themis is the critical enabler for the achievement of wholesale digital, service, and organisational transformation within NICTS, resulting in a more efficient and cost-effective public administration.

Making the Place for Justice – is our outcomes-based Estate Strategy, which has been developed to help achieve Improved User Experience, Improved Resilience, Improved Value for Money, and Improved Sustainability. We will analyse data and evidence related to our services and Estate to inform our strategic investment and utilisation of the Resource and Capital available to us. Through delivery of our strategy we will ensure we provide a right-sized Estate that reflects our future service delivery model. We aim to operate from resilient and carbon efficient buildings that are inclusive and welcoming for staff and the public and recognises the value of our heritage assets. Our strategy will be delivered through a range of major building upgrade projects and sustainability projects. This includes the planned infrastructure upgrade to the Royal Courts of Justice, our restoration of the Old Town Hall in Belfast and the delivery of an improved court and tribunal facility within the North West. Through the use of robust evidence, we will identify how our Estate should be configured in the future to deliver essential change that meets long-term service needs, reflects modern ways of working and enhances our financial sustainability by seeking opportunities to reduce operating costs and long-term maintenance liabilities. Our ongoing work with Ordnance Survey NI, public transport providers and other justice partners is providing us with new, rich data to help shape our estate plans.

As we transform our service delivery model, it is incumbent upon us to evaluate and identify the appropriate size and configuration of our future Estate; to determine if we are providing the right services in the right locations; and to analyse whether the provision of increased online services, automation, and utilisation of technology to facilitate remote hearings requires the continued operation of court and tribunal services at the existing 24 locations across NI. Through our two key transformational programmes of work:

- People will be able to access many of our services online and have visibility of the progression of their cases;
- We will deal with court and tribunal cases quicker;
- People will not have to travel to a court or tribunal venue to access services unless they need to (where it is in the interests of justice as determined by the judiciary);
- When people do have to come to court or tribunal, they will attend a resilient, modernised and carbon efficient building; and
- We will further support victims, witnesses and all vulnerable users through improved physical layout and facilities, and by providing enhanced and secure visibility of the progress of cases within NICTS.

208-2. Budget

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: Budgets for the financial years past 2023-24 have not been set yet.

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: Progression of Digital Justice Initiatives.

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:

208-5. High Judicial Council (competent for judges and/or prosecutors)

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:

208-7. Gender equality

- 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:

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:

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: