

Arrangements for Crown Court, County Court and Family Care Centre during Summer 2025

Crown Court

Trials

No new jury trials will be commenced between w/c 7 July and w/c 25 August. Trials will commence from w/c 1 September 2025.

Short trials may be listed during w/c 30 June and ongoing trials may continue into the following week.

Pleas and sentences

Outstanding plea and sentences will be listed over the summer on dates agreed with counsel. These cases will be listed for mention before the end of June. The pleas may be heard by any judge, save where the judge before whom the plea was entered agrees that they are seized of the matter, for instance where there has been an indication of sentence.

Belfast Crown Court

New arraignments

All new arraignments will be listed in the weeks commencing 18 and 25 August. It is expected that the arraignment will be ready to proceed. In accordance with PD 2/2019, defence statements should be served and third-party applications lodged in advance thereof. Counsel instructed in the case is expected to attend.

Cases requiring urgent listing over the Long Vacation in Crown Court, Family Care Centre and County Court

Where cases require urgent listing over the summer period a certificate of urgency¹ will be required to be lodged with the court, setting out the reasons for listing. The certificate is required to be signed by counsel. The duty judge will decide if there is sufficient urgency to require the case to be listed.

Lady Chief Justice's Office
29 May 2025

¹ Certificate of Urgency also available under 'Forms' on this JudiciaryNI [page](#)