



Northern  
Ireland

# Northern Ireland - From Dispute to Resolution.

As Northern Ireland's economy has developed in recent years, thanks to record inward investment and a newly emerging private sector, so has its commercial dispute resolution sector.

Larger companies that have used Northern Ireland's courts to resolve their disputes cite lower cost, speed of resolution and the greater and more personal interaction with their NI lawyer amongst its major attractive features. SMEs find that commercial disputes worth less than £200,000 can still be cost effectively pursued in the High Court in Belfast.

However, mediation is also growing in popularity and nearly 60% of Northern Ireland's largest businesses say that commercial mediation is their preferred form of dispute resolution.

With a reputation for a broad based commercial perspective, fearless advocacy and a pragmatic approach, Northern Ireland's lawyers can also offer cost-effective expertise on the law in England and Wales and Ireland, as well as NI jurisdictional issues.

Now could be the time to consult a Northern Ireland lawyer on your dispute.

## Did you know?

- Northern Ireland is a separate jurisdiction within the United Kingdom but shares a Supreme Court with England and Wales and Scotland.
- Around 80-90% of our commercial law is also shared with England and Wales (planning, property, employment and litigation are the main areas of difference).
- And many of our commercial practitioners are dual qualified in England and Wales and in the Republic of Ireland.

## Litigation – How can we help?

- Northern Ireland's Courts can hear English law cases and with low cost access to litigation, the NI High Court remains a viable option for less complex or threshold cases which might not be cost effective to litigate in the English courts.
- Northern Ireland's Courts operate a commercial list system which is highly flexible. Commercial cases are managed to a bespoke timetable – as fast or as slow as the parties want. On average in 2014, commercial cases were resolved in 31 weeks.

## Commercial Mediation – How can we help?

- Northern Ireland offers a choice of commercial mediation schemes based on different approaches, supported by the Law Society and Bar Council.
- NI mediators meet internationally recognised accreditation standards and have been used by the English Court of Appeal to mediate English cases in a range of business sectors.
- The NI court actively encourages commercial mediation and can build this into its bespoke case management approach.

## Arbitration – How can we help?

- Arbitration in Northern Ireland is governed by the UK Arbitration Act 1996 and NI courts will readily enforce arbitral awards.
- Northern Ireland has a small but growing band of qualified arbitrators including practising barristers and former members of the judiciary.
- Northern Ireland is an attractive location for arbitration with low cost hotel and arbitration space for the region.
- Our location within the United Kingdom and bordering the Republic of Ireland gives us easy access to a diverse range of non-legal expertise.

## If you are interested in:

### Investment opportunities in Northern Ireland

– contact Invest Northern Ireland [www.investni.com](http://www.investni.com)

### Understanding the NI Commercial List

– see the NI Courts Services website [www.courtsni.gov.uk](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk)

### Finding an NI mediator

– see [www.mediatorsni.com](http://www.mediatorsni.com) and [www.barofni.com/mediationdirectory](http://www.barofni.com/mediationdirectory)

### Finding an NI arbitrator

– see [www.barofni.com](http://www.barofni.com)

