

Table 1

Dissolutions and Annulments of Marriage, 1981, 1991, 1996, 1999-2004

England and Wales

	1981	1991	1996	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Petitions* filed for:									
Nullity	1,050	619	702	549	452	492 ¹	443 ¹	463 ¹	492 ¹
Divorce (dissolution of marriage)	176,162	179,103	177,970	162,137	157,809	172,341 ¹	177,223 ¹	173,240 ¹	167,193 ¹
Decrees granted									
Decree of nullity	950	444	415	323	352	250	197	196	200
Decree absolute	144,763	158,301	156,692	144,233	140,783	143,568	147,538	153,294	153,199
of which:									
Granted to husband	42,085	43,961	46,712	43,413	42,311	44,378	44,694	46,915	47,651
Granted to wife	102,170	113,947	109,489	100,469	98,227	98,992	102,676	106,208	105,381
Granted to both	508	393	491	351	245	198	168	171	167

Information on petitions provided by the Court Service has been produced using the Management Information System (MIS), a new data warehousing facility drawing directly from court-based information systems. The new facility, implemented in June 2002, enables the Department of Constitutional Affairs access to more complete data than was previously possible including late submitted data for previous years. Figures for previous years were updated in 2003.

* Source: The Court Service.